Statement to be made under Technical and Health Matters
Agenda Item 6.1: Prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases

Statement by the Union for International Cancer Control, on behalf of:

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of the Union for International Cancer Control, the NCD Alliance and 50 leading civil society organisations.

We commend Member States on their support for the Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of NCDs, adopted at the UN High Level Meeting in September 2011.

Halting the NCD epidemic requires timely implementation of the commitments in the Political Declaration and taking clear decisions at the 65th World Health Assembly this May.

Therefore, we call on Member States to:

One: Invest time and resources in the consultation process leading to the adoption of a global monitoring and accountability framework at WHA, and invite civil society into this process.

Two: Adopt a first set of realistic global targets at WHA and agree a process and timeline for additional targets.

   Endorsement in May of the goal to reduce preventable deaths from NCDs (by 25% by 2025) is essential.

   WHO’s examples of targets to reduce tobacco, salt, alcohol, blood pressure and transfats – which have the highest level of adherence to WHO’s criteria – should also be endorsed without delay.

   Targets and indicators on other vital priorities, such as access to essential medicines, must also be developed by the end of 2012.

   We note that countries can adopt additional national targets at any time.

Three: Include NCDs in the post-2015 international development goal-setting process. NCDs are a cross-cutting development priority and must be fully integrated into future global, regional and national development frameworks.

Four: Support civil society participation in the establishment of a genuinely multisectoral global partnership for NCDs.

Five: Provide WHO with the necessary resources to promote and monitor global action on NCDs.

The NCD Alliance and other civil society organisations pledge our continued support to Member States and WHO in pursuing these objectives. Together, we can secure a healthy future for all.

Geneva, 19 Jan 2012