

Annex 3

**KUWAIT CALL FOR ACTION ON THE PREVENTION AND
CONTROL OF NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND RISK FACTORS IN
THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION**

April 2013

We, the participants in the Regional Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases and Risk Factors in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, met in the City of Kuwait, from 29 to 30 April 2013. The focus of our meeting was on how to scale up national noncommunicable diseases action plans and programmes in the context of the commitments agreed by Member States, including the key strategic interventions outlined in the 'Regional Framework for Action on the commitments of Member States to implement the United Nations Political Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases'.

We the participants;

Note with concern that noncommunicable diseases, mainly cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases, represent a major global and regional challenge to health and socioeconomic development. Their magnitude in the Region is already enormous, is a leading cause of death, and continues to increase.

Acknowledge that the Regional Framework endorsed by all Member States in October 2012 provides a clear vision and a roadmap for all countries, irrespective of socioeconomic development status, to reduce premature disability and deaths related to noncommunicable diseases.

Recognize that, despite the important steps taken by Member States towards noncommunicable diseases prevention and control, gaps are still present in noncommunicable diseases prevention and control programmes and a coordinated regional action is needed in all countries in the Region to scale up action to meet the commitments of the UN Political Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases.

We call upon government and national partners to:

Integrate noncommunicable diseases prevention and control in the national development agenda and national health plans, commensurate with the national burden and priorities, and scale up the translation of such prioritization into programmes and budgets.

Strengthen national policies and programmes for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases through a whole-of-government approach and multisectoral collaboration with special emphasis on equity.

Scale up action against noncommunicable diseases as guided by the Regional Framework for Action on the commitments of Member States to implement the United Nations Political Declaration on Non communicable Diseases.

Undertake a series of concrete steps and preparatory work leading to a strong regional presence and responses at the second UN General Assembly meeting on noncommunicable diseases in September 2014.

Adapt the recommendations of the regional noncommunicable diseases Technical Advisory Group in its first meeting convened by WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean in Cairo, from 11 to 12 April 2013.

Prioritize prevention of risk factors and strengthen implementation of “best buys” and evidence-based interventions.

Ratify and implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) using MPOWER measures, curb the influence of the tobacco industry and become signatory to the special protocol on the elimination of illicit trade in tobacco products.

Prioritize reduction of salt intake as a highly cost-effective public health intervention towards noncommunicable diseases prevention, adopt immediate measures leading to the gradual reduction of salt intake in food items, and undertake studies to bridge current gaps in knowledge about salt content of food items as well as monitor salt intake at the population level.

Promote health nutrition across the life course and implement the WHO Recommendations on the marketing of food and non-alcoholic beverages to children, including the development and enforcement of legislation and regulations, along with clear mechanisms, to avoid conflict of interest, with a specific emphasis on cooperation on cross-border issues.

Develop and implement national action plans to promote physical activity, including carrying out population- and community-level activities and demonstration projects.

Implement the WHO Framework on noncommunicable diseases surveillance, strengthen civil registration and vital statistics systems, and incorporate noncommunicable diseases surveillance indicators in national health information systems.

Ensure a balance of investment across prevention and treatment within broader efforts for health system strengthening in Member States.

Ensure that quality care for people with noncommunicable diseases is primary care-led, fully integrated across the spectrum from prevention to end-of-life palliation, and supported by a functioning referral system.

Ensure the availability, accessibility and affordability of essential medicines and technologies for noncommunicable diseases using WHO guides.

We call upon WHO to:

Continue to support Member States in the development of country-level multisectoral policies, plans and promote best buys and cost-effective interventions.

In accordance with national priorities, enhance capacity development and support countries to sustain noncommunicable diseases prevention and control programmes.

Strengthen existing regional collaboration and sharing of best practices regarding noncommunicable diseases prevention and control, including establishing a network of noncommunicable diseases programme managers and relevant national stakeholders.

Work closely with national health authorities in Member States to advocate for noncommunicable diseases prevention and control at the highest levels of government, increasing both political commitment and political knowledge on best buys interventions.