

GHANA NCD ALLIANCE / PRIVATE HEALTH SECTOR ALLIANCE OF GHANA DECLARATION OF THE 5TH NATIONAL HIGH- LEVEL MEETING ON NON-COMMUNICABLE

DATE: 7TH-8TH DECEMBER 2022

VENUE: MENSVIC GRAND
HOTEL, EAST LEGON



This is the official declaration of the 5th National High-Level Meeting on NCDs held from Wednesday, 7th to Thursday, 8th December 2022 under the theme: "Investing in NCD service delivery at the primary healthcare level to achieve Universal Health Coverage"

We, the participants have gathered here from the 7th - 8th of December 2022 to elevate the NCDs challenge for national visibility and response and also to extensively engage stakeholders to fashion a direction for the national response in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Ghana Health Service guided by the National Health Policy, National NCD Policy, and National NCD Strategy. We stand to effectively partner with all relevant stakeholders; both state and non-state actors, to work towards the attainment of universal health coverage by investing in NCDs services delivery at the primary health care level with a primary focus on integrating the private sector into the national health system to contribute to overall health services delivery.

We are determined to strengthen the integration and management of NCDs in primary health care, and health systems and develop means to address the integration of governance, financing, workforce development, service delivery, essential medicines and technologies, and health information. Integration in all domains is needed to ensure health systems put people at the centre of health care and thus achieve affordable and quality health for all.

We affirm our solemn commitment to support and help in the implementation of the new NCD Policy and Strategic Plan for Ghana. We will provide all support needed to prevent and control avoidable NCD-related morbidity and mortality through health promotion, health system strengthening, provision of health resources, transformative partnerships, and community empowerment. We will do everything in our power to ensure that the burden of NCDs is reduced to the barest minimum to render it of little or no public health importance.

We are determined to integrate NCDs into disease-specific areas such as HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria, and others to result in better and more holistic patient care, and prevention and treatment outcomes while avoiding duplication of efforts in addressing the prevention and treatment of diseases



with shared risk factors and common management frameworks in a simultaneous and integrated manner.

We are committed to reducing the burden of NCDs in Ghana to achieve sustainable development goals. SDG target 3.4 explores reducing by one-third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promoting mental health and well-being. We will employ measures to integrate NCD services in primary healthcare facilities to facilitate early detection, treatment, and management of NCDs before they advance to reduce premature mortality.

We will address and create awareness of the health and economic implications of health-harming products. Products such as; tobacco, sugar-sweetened beverages, and alcoholic beverages pose major harm to our health and increase our risk of developing NCDs and running into extreme poverty due to out-of-pocket payment for health services. We will consciously seize every opportunity to educate the general public to reduce and refrain from consuming health-harming products.

We will use all avenues possible, to advocate and increase communication to promote NCDs awareness in Ghana. We will intensify awareness and sensitization across all populations especially vulnerable and marginalised groups to protect especially those at risk of NCDs.

We acknowledge the importance and the need to meaningfully involve persons living with NCDs in planning and decision-making on services related to NCDs. Effectively addressing NCDs requires an understanding of how these diseases affect people and the challenges and needs that people face as they navigate healthcare systems and their daily lives. Learning from lived experiences and first-hand knowledge of people living with NCDs is essential to improving policies, services, programmes, and social beliefs.

We recognise the government's commitment and efforts taken to curb the epidemic of NCDs in Ghana; we however continue to call on the government to prioritise and improve the financing of NCDs services and related care, to reduce the financial burden it weighs on the citizens.

We will foster collaboration and partnerships with other stakeholders to implement, monitor, and evaluate interventions discussed to ensure that we effectively apply and promote the objectives and outcomes of this meeting.

We recognise the significance of developing a roadmap of activities and achievements from today to the time we will meet again to acknowledge where we were, the impact made, the outcome, and what still needs to be done.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- We are calling on the government to implement an effective and efficient taxation system on unhealthy commodities such as tobacco, alcohol, and sugar-sweetened beverages as they are the main NCD risk factors. These taxes have proven to reduce consumption while generating revenue for the government to finance NCDs-related healthcare.



- Inclusion of essential NCD prevention and care services across the continuum of care and the life course (health promotion, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care, rehabilitation, and palliative care)
- Expansion of delivery of Primary Health Care to include NCDs as a cornerstone of a sustained people-centred, community-based and integrated health system and the foundation for achieving Universal Health Coverage.
- Implementation of Universal Health Coverage reforms and policies that address the growing burden of multi-morbidities and consider the practical needs of persons living with more than one chronic condition.
- We acknowledge the efforts of the Government in health financing so far and we are requesting an increase in the Government revenue allocated to healthcare, specifically in NCDs services at the Primary healthcare facilities.
- We recommend that the NHIA include the full cost of NCDs medicines and diagnostic services on its existing part-paid benefit package.
- We recommend that the private sector be consciously integrated into national health systems to generate and tap into a larger pool of expertise, funding, and innovation, to advance Universal Health Coverage in Ghana.
- We recommend the meaningful involvement of CSOs and people living with NCDs in the planning and decision-making process as well as the implementation of NCDs prevention and control programs
- We recommend a shift in the national health agenda from being curative-oriented towards being more preventive in nature.

