

Item 7. 'Political declaration of the third high- level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases'

(g) Draft intersectoral global action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders in support of universal health coverage

Thank you chair,

We would like to thank the secretariat and endorse the detailed intersectoral global action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders provided in the report. The action plan sets an ambitious vision, clear objectives, and a well rounded approach to address neurological disorders and promote brain health.

(As we just heard) Neurological disorders such as stroke, dementia, epilepsy, headache, and meningitis, are the second leading cause of death globally, accounting for 9 million deaths per year, and thus should receive the full attention and resources. The action plan highlights the need to reduce the stigma, impact, and burden of neurological disorders, including their associated mortality, morbidity, and disability, and to improve the quality of life of persons with neurological disorders, their carers and families.

We want to stress the need to provide quality rehabilitation services for people with neurological disorders and the importance of early-rehabilitation after traumatic brain injury or illness. Neurological conditions impact people's functioning and often reduce their mobility, communication, cognitive functioning and self-care. Therefore, rehabilitation is the key health strategy to optimize functioning in everyday life and can slow or stop deterioration in health, restore functioning, and improve participation in society.

We thus ask the secretariat to prioritize the work on rehabilitation, which is often under-resourced, and remains inaccessible or unaffordable for many people worldwide. This would benefit and improve the quality of life of people living with neurological disorders.

Thank you.