World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE BOARD
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Agenda item 6

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Addressing diabetes as a public health problem

Draft decision proposed by Canada, Costa Rica, Eswatini, France, Indonesia, Jamaica, Norway, Qatar, Russian Federation, Sudan, Uruguay and Vanuatu

(PP1) The Executive Board, having considered the report on the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;[1]

(PP2) Expressing deep concern at the lack of progress in addressing diabetes as a public health problem and recognizing that necessary efforts for the prevention and control of diabetes are hampered by, inter alia, lack of universal access to quality, safe, effective, affordable essential health services, medicines, diagnostics and health technologies, as well as a global shortage of qualified health workers;[2]

(PP3) Noting with deep concern that the effectiveness of efforts to reduce, halt and reverse the main risk factors for diabetes (tobacco use, unhealthy diet, overweight and obesity, and physical inactivity), included in the global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020, have been insufficient and not uniform;

(PP4) Noting also that more than 422 million people were living with diabetes worldwide in 2014,[3] and that this number is estimated to rise to 570 million by 2030,[4] and 700 million by 2045,[5] and that diabetes was among the top 10 causes of death in 2019, following a significant increase of 70%

[1] Document EB148/7.

[2] United Nations General Assembly resolution 75/130.

[3] WHO fact sheet. Diabetes, 8 June 2020 (available at https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/diabetes#:~:text=Key%20facts,in%20premature%20mortality%20from%20diabetes, accessed 18 January 2021).

[4] Wild S, Roglic G, Green A, Sicree R, King S. Global prevalence of diabetes. Diabetes Care. 2004;27(5):1047–53. doi 10.2337/diacare.27.5.1047.

[5] International Diabetes Federation. About diabetes: diabetes facts and figures (available at https://www.idf.org/aboutdiabetes/what-is-diabetes/facts-figures.html#:~:text=Diabetes%20facts%20%26%20figures,-Last%20update%3A%2012&text=In%202019%2C,low%2D%20and%20middle%2Dincome%20countries, accessed 18 January 2021).

since 2000,[1] and alarmed that the probability of dying from diabetes between the ages of 30 and 70 years increased by 5% between 2000 and 2016;[2]

(PP5) Recognizing that people living with diabetes are at higher risk of developing severe COVID-19 symptoms and are among those most impacted by the pandemic;[3]

(PP6) Recognizing also the centenary of the discovery of insulin and acknowledging the significant health gains made possible through research and innovation, decided:

(OP1) to urge Member States[4] to intensify, where appropriate, efforts to address the prevention and control of diabetes as a public health problem as part of universal health coverage, by advancing comprehensive approaches on prevention, management, including its complications, and integrated service delivery, while emphasizing the importance of early and childhood prevention and ensuring that no one is left behind, within the framework of the global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020;

(OP2) to encourage Member States[4] and the Secretariat to recognize and to celebrate in 2021, as appropriate, including in the margins of the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly, the centenary of the discovery of insulin, and to update public awareness and education campaigns about diabetes prevention and treatment and associated risk factors;

(OP3) to request the Director-General to update the report to be submitted for consideration to the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly by adding an annex on major obstacles to achieving the diabetes-related targets in the global action plan;

(OP4) to request the Director-General to ensure the efficient implementation of diabetes-related objectives of the global action plan and to report on progress as part of the consolidated reporting on noncommunicable diseases.

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[1] WHO fact sheet. The top 10 causes of death, 9 December 2020 (available at https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/the-top-10-causes-of-death, accessed 18 January 2021).

[2] World health statistics 2020: monitoring health for the SDGs. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020 (available at https://www.who.int/data/gho/publications/world-health-statistics, accessed 18 January 2021).

[3] United Nations General Assembly resolution 74/306.

[4] And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.