

**Review of and update on matters considered by the Executive Board:
Universal Health Coverage**

**Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General
Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases**

Esteemed Chair, Members of the WHA, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We thank the Director General for his consolidated report and would like to support the decision to establish a global strategy and action plan for integrated emergency, critical and operative care as essential on the road to achieving Universal Health Coverage. Additionally, we support the development of a global strategy on organ transplantation and donation, as an integral part in NCD end stage disease management, while respecting ethical and regulatory aspects. We also look forward for the global status report on Cancer 2025 as a routine activity to help position global and national health policies.

As we come together today, it is crucial to recognize the pressing necessity to join our efforts in addressing the increasing challenge of NCDs. Many people still do not have access to the essential healthcare services they need, with over 70% of global deaths attributed to the four main NCDs, namely cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes, and respiratory conditions. In order to tackle this inequality, we need to focus on funding primary and preventive healthcare, increase insurance coverage, and remove financial barriers to ensure equitable access to healthcare for all.

We recently drafted the "Lebanon National Health Strategy: Vision 2030" aiming to shift Lebanon's healthcare system towards a people-centered and integrated approach within the UHC framework. This strategy involves a range of initiatives designed to address NCDs and mental health at various healthcare levels, from early detection to treatment, enhancing immunization for children and adults with assistance from GAVI, engaging the private sector, improving the cold chain network and leveraging on digital health.

Lebanon also drafted a national cancer plan in 2023 that does not only emphasize prevention and early detection, but also treatment and palliative care, to prove our dedication to providing care to

patients living with cancer through a holistic approach, and ensuring they have proper quality treatment without experiencing financial hardship.

We are thankful to our international partners, especially WHO for their invaluable support in building capacity and providing technical support. Nevertheless, ongoing assistance is needed to guarantee sufficient funding and implementation of NCD plans as well as improving the accessibility and quality of NCD data for making informed decisions. By working together and pooling resources, we can enhance the global fight against NCDs in a spirit of solidarity and collaboration towards achieving UHC.

Thank you