

PORTUGAL

STATEMENT

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

78TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

(19 – 27 MAY 2025)

Item XX – Chronic Kidney Disease

Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is a significant public health challenge in Portugal, affecting many individuals and placing a substantial burden on our healthcare system. To address this, Portugal has developed a National Strategy to promote Kidney Health and quality in CKD Care and recently published the "Integrated Care Pathway for People with Chronic Kidney Disease" as part of our National Strategy for the Promotion of Kidney Health and Integrated Care in CKD 2023–2026.

This document aims to ensure fair, safe, and high-quality care throughout all stages of the disease—from prevention and early diagnosis to advanced treatment and end-of-life care. Our approach is patient-centred, promoting personalized treatment, integrated care, and tailored therapeutic interventions, involving multidisciplinary teams and employing technological tools.

Key objectives of this plan include:

- ❑ Strengthening primary healthcare to identify risk factors and conduct regular screenings in vulnerable populations.
- ❑ Developing advanced CKD consultations and efficient coordination among primary, hospital, and home care services.
- ❑ Prioritizing treatments such as home dialysis and pre-emptive transplantation, focusing on quality of life and reducing associated complications.
- ❑ Providing therapeutic alternatives to eligible patients, with attention to symptom relief, psychosocial support, and dignity in end-of-life care.
- ❑ Defining quality indicators and utilizing digital health technologies to monitor clinical outcomes and enhance patient experience.

Through this approach, we aim to prevent kidney damage, achieve timely diagnosis, apply therapies that increase dialysis-free survival, reduce the incidence of unplanned dialysis initiations, increase access to kidney transplants and home-based treatments, promote resource sustainability, and ensure a more humane and effective response to the needs of people with CKD.

Portugal reaffirms its commitment to implementing integrated and person-centred strategies to tackle the challenges of chronic kidney disease and contribute to building safer, more equitable, and resilient health systems.

Thank you.

[292 words]