

INTRAEALTH INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT AT 70TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

May 2017

15.1 PREPARATION FOR THE THIRD HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NON- COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, TO BE HELD IN 2018

Reducing the human and economic toll of non-communicable diseases, especially in low- and middle-income countries, hinges on building stronger health systems and a health workforce that is well-trained, highly skilled, continuously supported, and appropriately deployed to address NCDs. Alarmingly, current trends suggest the world will be short 18 million health workers by 2030, with the sharpest deficits in low- and middle-income countries, especially in Africa and Asia.

We applaud the NCD Global Action Plan's policy recommendations to strengthen human resources for the prevention and control of NCDs, and we urge Member States to fully implement these recommendations into their national action plans, aligning their efforts with the WHO's first-ever Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030, adopted last year. As NCDs are projected to be the leading cause of death by 2030, investments are urgently needed to expand training and education programs that build frontline health worker skills in prevention and early detection of NCDs, and to incorporate NCDs into all pre-service education curricula.

We further recommend integrating NCD prevention, control, and management into the scopes of practice of health workers who are providing other service- and disease-specific interventions, harnessing the potential of task-shifting to address barriers to success, and implementing evidence-based national policies that build on the expertise of organizations like IntraHealth. Without greater political attention, coordination, and investment, health workers around the world cannot meet the demand created by changing disease burdens and the growing prevalence of NCDs.

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