

**Statement by the Union for International Cancer Control on behalf of the NCD Alliance
67th World Health Assembly Statement – Agenda Item 13.1
May 2014**

Chairperson, Honourable Ministers, distinguished delegates, colleagues,

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of the Union for International Cancer Control and the NCD Alliance – a global civil society network working collectively to transform the fight against non-communicable diseases.

After two years of providing expert recommendations and support to WHO and Member States during consultations on the global coordination mechanism for NCDs, the NCD Alliance regrets to express our great disappointment with the final Terms of Reference:

- 1) The structure is not fit for purpose.** Two important lessons from the 2012 UN Secretary General's Report on Partnerships were: form should follow function; and loose, under-resourced structures have proven ineffective in the NCD response. Member States and WHO have ignored these important lessons and instead agreed to a weak structure unfit to deliver;
- 2) It fails to “walk the talk” on multisectoral action.** The main purpose of the GCM is to facilitate multisectoral action. Yet in all three structural components, including the working groups, there is little opportunity for other stakeholders to get involved.
- 3) It lacks an “engine”.** The GCM lacks an advisory group, which would have served as an ongoing “brains trust” to support and guide the GCM. Even WHO NCDnet from 2009-2011, which was described in the UNSG's paper as *“insufficient in scope and scale”*, had an advisory group.

In summary, the GCM falls significantly short of the vision and commitments in the 2011 Political Declaration. Instead, it reinforces a “business as usual” approach to NCDs and is a missed opportunity.

We sincerely hope this is the first phase of the GCM, and forthcoming discussions at the UN Review, will yield a more robust mechanism. In the meantime, the NCD Alliance will continue to lead truly multisectoral partnership and initiatives on NCDs.