

Written Statement for the 77th SEARO Regional Committee Meeting

Agenda item 8.2:

Annual report on monitoring progress on UHC and health- related SDGs

Honourable Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

The NCD Alliance, South East Asia Regional NCD Alliance and all its country-level member alliances welcome the annual report on monitoring progress on UHC and health-related SDGs and congratulate Member States and WHO SEARO for making progress in on this agenda item. We commend the significant progress across the WHO South East Asia Region in improving the availability of health workers, particularly doctors, nurses, and midwives. As we work towards achievement of SDG 3.c.1, it is now essential that there is focus on the well-being of the health workforce, especially community health workers and primary health care teams, and that they are adequately trained in NCD prevention, detection, and management.

However, there is need to strengthen efforts towards SDG target 3.8.1, as the region needs to catch-up on achieving the UHC Service Coverage Index target of 80 by 2030. Additionally, the financial protection dimension of UHC (SDG 3.8.2) also warrant urgent attention. The region should also substantially strengthen efforts to meet SDG target 3.4, on reducing premature mortality from NCDs. As important contribution to prioritising women's health, HPV vaccine coverage (SDG 3.b.1) needs to be significantly increased from the current level of 8%.

We urge Member States to prioritize UHC and NCD targets, aligning efforts with the 2023 UHC Political Declaration and preparing for upcoming High-Level Meetings on NCDs. Specifically, we recommend:

1. Accelerating UHC implementation by integrating NCD services into health benefit packages.
2. Aligning NCD and national health priorities to support patient-centered care.
3. Investing in health information systems to provide timely, reliable data in support of policies and decision-making.
4. Strengthening the capacity of healthcare workforce focused on people-centered NCD care.
5. Meaningfully engaging people living with NCDs to keep UHC efforts focused on community needs.

Thank you.