



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
23 April 2012

Original: English

Substantive session of 2012

New York, 2-27 July 2012

Item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda*

High-level segment: annual ministerial review

Statement submitted by International Diabetes Federation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2012/100.



Statement

The Non-communicable Disease Alliance, representing over 2,000 non-governmental organizations from 170 countries, commends the Council and the annual ministerial review for its continuing leadership in assessing progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and for focusing this year's meeting on promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels.

Significant progress has been made across many of the Goals, but global trends and patterns of inequality, demography, migration, urbanization, consumption and production are creating new challenges that threaten to derail development. The high-level meeting of the General Assembly on non-communicable diseases, held in September 2011, and the unanimous adoption of General Assembly resolution 66/2 on the Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases signal consensus by States Members of the United Nations that one of the major challenges to development is the growing epidemic of such diseases. Progress made to date in poverty eradication, achieving full and productive employment, and development more broadly, is being undermined by the human and economic impact of cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease and diabetes. With the end date of the Goals drawing nearer, it is critical that such diseases are fully integrated into the post-2015 development framework and the broader United Nations development agenda.

Low- and middle-income countries are suffering immense human and economic losses because of non-communicable diseases. Deaths from such diseases in such countries are projected to increase from 36 million every year by over 50 per cent by 2030, with the largest increase in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. Non-communicable diseases are affecting the health of populations at a younger age in many such countries, which causes and sustains impoverishment at the household level and adversely affects labour supply, productivity and economic growth at the national level. Such diseases result in longer periods of ill health, absenteeism from work and loss of earnings, early death of the main income earner and a greater loss of productivity. They place undue strain on weaker economic systems and overwhelm health systems. Indeed, the World Economic Forum has consistently identified such diseases as one of the top global threats to economic development.

The 2012 annual ministerial review provides an important opportunity to highlight the importance of health and non-communicable diseases in promoting productive capacity to drive sustainable, equitable economic growth. Action on such diseases will create a healthier workforce, mitigate their economic impacts, accelerate progress towards poverty eradication and create circumstances favourable to sustainable development. The Non-communicable Disease Alliance calls upon the annual ministerial review to support the following action on such diseases and development and reflect the following in its final declaration:

- Fully integrate non-communicable disease prevention and control into the post-2015 development framework
- Integrate health and non-communicable diseases into the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

- Promote a healthy workforce by integrating non-communicable diseases and social protection mechanisms into national health and development planning
 - Provide adequate and sustained resources for non-communicable diseases through bilateral, regional and multilateral channels
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