



*(In response to Draft Agenda, Committee A, point 13.1, first bullet point.)*

*Thank you. My name is Modi Mwatsama, and I am here today representing the International Association for the Study of Obesity with the International Obesity Task Force, and a number of organisations concerned with nutrition including the National Heart Forum, World Cancer Research Fund International, World Action on Salt and Health, World Public Health Nutrition Association and Consumers International. I wish to contribute the following short statement to this Assembly debate.*

### **Statement to the 65<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly**

We welcome the Political Declaration from UN High Level Meeting on non-communicable diseases, and note that paragraphs 61 and 64 highlight the need for the World Health Organization to lead **cross-sectoral action** to tackle NCDs.

Food and nutrition are the most important drivers of the recent rise in NCDs and the worldwide pandemic of obesity. We therefore welcome the inclusion of nutrition goals in the draft **Global Monitoring Framework and Voluntary Targets for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable diseases**. We strongly endorse the target to reduce salt intake to 5g per day, particularly as this is extremely cost-effective. We urge member states to reinstate and strengthen the targets on obesity, alcohol and trans fats, and to keep the indicators on cholesterol and marketing to children.

Secondly, we urge this Assembly to mandate the WHO to seize the challenge from the UN High Level Meeting on NCDs, and to proceed immediately to develop **global governance structures and comprehensive food policies** which integrate the prevention of NCDs with the reduction of hunger and the promotion of nutrition security for all. We call on WHO to work with agencies including the Food and Agriculture Organization to support the call for sustainable food production and nutrition security being made at the “Rio plus-20” conference next month.

Thirdly, we welcome the WHO’s new publication that provides a framework for member states to develop policies on the **marketing of food and beverages to children and adolescents**, and we urge this Assembly to mandate the WHO to draft an international code to strengthen controls on *cross-border marketing* and to protect children *where national controls are not implemented*.

Lastly we urge Member States and this Assembly, to increase actions to **monitor and regulate food and nutrition environments** including food production and trade, food composition, food marketing, food labelling, food availability, food prices and the activities of the associated commercial sectors. We urge member states to provide support to public interest non-governmental organisations engaged in such monitoring activities. We also urge the WHO to keep food and nutrition policy free from the undue influence of vested interests and to develop an ethical framework to guide interactions with the commercial sector.

Thank you.

The International Association for the Study of Obesity  
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