



ESMO Statement at the World Health Assembly, 21-26 May 2018

Agenda Item 11.7: 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

Honourable Chair, Esteemed Delegates,

The European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) comprises 18,000 oncology professionals from 150 countries, and is committed to decreasing inequalities in cancer care worldwide.

We share with WHO and the UN the goal of reducing premature mortality from cancer by 25% by 2025, called for in the WHO Global Action Plan on NCDs, and by 33% by 2030, called for by the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals. To achieve these goals, we request that WHO assure that the Outcome Document of the 3rd UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs state that governments must undertake the following actions:

1. Implement the 2017 World Health Assembly Cancer Resolution which should serve as the reference document to improve cancer control.
2. Develop and strengthen educational programs to promote cost-effective lifestyle recommendations, as well as efficacious and cost-effective primary prevention measures (e.g. HPV and viral hepatitis vaccinations, Helicobacter pylori eradication)
3. Assure timely access to screening for pre-malignant lesions or early-stage diagnosis and high-quality, affordable cancer treatment,
4. Strengthen health systems to achieve Universal Health Coverage that extends basic cancer services to the millions of patients who die prematurely because they do not have access to cancer treatment.
5. Provide essential secondary health care services that assure an adequate number of well-trained oncology professionals, who have sustainable access to the resources required to provide appropriate treatment, and provide supportive and palliative care.
6. Commit to achieving the targets of reducing premature mortality of 25% by 2025, and 33% by 2030, across all NCDs, and not only in one or two NCD areas, leaving patients suffering from other NCDs behind.

ESMO is ready to support WHO and Member States in strengthening the medical oncology workforce and in identifying the most cost-effective interventions that can immediately help reduce the number of cancer deaths worldwide.

Thank you.