



**IAPO Intervention: Agenda Item 3.a Follow up to the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly on the prevention and control of NCDs 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the World Health Organization's Regional Committee for Europe**

Thank you Chair. Honourable members of the Committee, distinguished delegates:

The International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO) is an alliance of patient groups that represents the interests of patients worldwide. We have over 200 members that span over 60 countries and 50 disease areas, representing an estimated 365 million patients.

Following the adoption of the resolution on non-communicable diseases at the World Health Assembly in May, IAPO is pleased to see that the Global Action Plan has outlined a wide range of activities for civil society to undertake. Patients' organizations are key stakeholders, who provide a wide range of healthcare services such as health literacy training, health promotion advice, and support for managing conditions and accessing treatment. Therefore they need to be empowered and involved in all action to tackle NCDs. We urge all Member States to involve patients and patients' organizations in all activities to implement the Global Action Plan and strongly support WHO's assertion that: 'People and communities should be empowered and involved in activities for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases'.

The global coordinating mechanism will facilitate international cooperation and strengthen global and regional coordination to achieve the objectives outlined in the Global Action Plan.

IAPO urges Member States to ensure strong financing mechanisms to meet the targets in the global monitoring framework. Strong financing will ensure momentum is sustained in the prevention and management of NCDs and ensure that low and middle-income countries can achieve the objectives outlined in the Global Action Plan. IAPO also calls upon WHO to set ambitious targets for the impact that WHO will have in preventing and controlling NCDs.

Finally, all policies, programs, and strategies must be based on the fundamental right to patient-centred healthcare as outlined in IAPO's Declaration on Patient-Centred Healthcare. Thank you for your attention.