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**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development
and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
priority theme: rethinking and strengthening social
development in the contemporary world**

Statement submitted by Union for International Cancer Control, 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 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.



Statement

Non-communicable diseases, including cancers, cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes and mental health and neurological disorders, are the leading cause of death worldwide, accounting for over two thirds of global mortality. Non-communicable diseases are also the leading cause of disability, responsible for over half of all disability adjusted life years. Low- and middle-income countries bear the burden of this health and development crisis, as the majority of preventable deaths and cases of disability occur in the poorest countries.

Global population dynamics, including the youth bulge and rapid demographic ageing, are accelerating the rise in non-communicable diseases and disability, with younger and older persons facing an increased risk of developing such diseases, as well as short- and long-term impairments.

It is well known that people, particularly children and older people, with non-communicable diseases and disabilities experience numerous barriers to social equity, including a lack of physical and financial access to health care and services and limited access to quality education. These barriers to economic opportunities and social services are exacerbated by poverty, with vulnerable populations disproportionately affected.

Strong commitments and immediate action to prevent and control non-communicable diseases, the effective implementation of policies to protect and promote the rights of younger and older persons and the empowerment of people living with disabilities will promote economic growth and social equity in the post-2015 era.

In the light of this, we strongly urge the Commission for Social Development:

(a) To ensure that addressing non-communicable diseases and adopting a life-course approach to health are critical to strengthening social development. The Commission should seek to build on the commitments for action contained in the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, held in 2014, as well as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing;

(b) To support a strong, technically sound and ambitious target on non-communicable diseases in the post-2015 framework. This target should be based on the agreed target to reduce mortality stemming from such diseases by 25 per cent by 2025, but adapted for the 2030 timeline. The proposal for a target on non-communicable diseases made by the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (see [A/68/970](#), target 3.4) balances prevention and treatment but fails to address neurological disorders or a reduction in morbidity and disability related to non-communicable diseases. Further work is needed to develop a target and relevant indicators that capture both mortality and morbidity in a comprehensive manner;

(c) To strengthen the focus on equity to ensure that no one is left behind. Data that is disaggregated by gender, age, disability and income will be necessary to

ensure that the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable populations improve in the post-2015 era.

The Union for International Cancer Control, a founding member of the NCD Alliance, stands ready to support Member States as we shape a development framework that strengthens social development and creates a healthy, equitable future for all.
