

Written statement from IDF Europe to provisional agenda item 10 Progress report on Reaffirming commitment to health systems strengthening for universal health coverage, better outcomes and reduced health inequalities

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IDF Europe welcomes the progress made following the adoption of resolution EUR/RC68/R3.

We commend WHO/Europe's efforts and those of other stakeholders towards strengthening European healthcare systems. We welcome the key priorities identified such as the strengthening of primary healthcare and integration of care, the promotion of mental health, the development of sustainable workforce strategies and the strengthening of human resources as well as working towards financial protection, access to medicines and universal health coverage. These actions are key to ensuring effective prevention, management and treatment of diabetes and other noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), improving quality of life and reducing health inequalities while at the same time contributing to improving the resilience of Europe's health systems.

Effective prevention and management of diabetes rely on all these policies and are a clear marker of health systems' resilience and performance. We urge national policy makers to consider diabetes as a test bed of these policies for every facet and component of a healthcare system.

Diabetes can affect everyone: babies and children as well as adults, across all socio-economic groups and all geographies. Diabetes is also a root cause of many other NCDs such as cardiovascular diseases, renal diseases and cancer, which represent a huge healthcare cost while being largely preventable. Putting in place effective diabetes prevention and management strategy and ensuring equitable access to diabetes care helps to keep citizens away from healthcare services, lower costs, improve resource utilisation, free financial and human resources and contribute to health systems' digitalisation. Specifically, optimal diabetes prevention and management require:

Integrated, people-centred care: a multi-morbid condition with a high psychological burden and which evolves over time, diabetes management builds on paediatric as well as adult and geriatric care. It necessitates the attention and collaboration of healthcare professionals (HCPs) at primary and secondary level, in diabetology as well as in cardiology, nutrition, nephrology, neurology, ophthalmology, and many more.

Education and empowerment of HCPs and People living with Diabetes (PwD): self-management of the disease 24/7 requires appropriate PwD education and empowerment. It needs to be supported by adequately trained HCPs and access to self-management education and tools as well as innovation across the health system while bringing PwD in the design of policy initiatives and solutions.

Collaboration, governance, data and IT integration: collaboration among all internal and external stakeholders is required to allow for health systems to be equipped with the necessary tools and frameworks to better evaluate interventions, pathways and treatment options and invest in innovation and those interventions that have proven to be the most effective. Prerequisites to this include access to a broad range of data, including real-world evidence (of which PwD generate a lot), and in-depth analysis of this data, using the latest tools and techniques, such as artificial intelligence.

Uninterrupted access to care, medication, tools and technologies: effective management of diabetes and other NCDs requires access to the necessary medication, interventions, supplies and technologies. These need to build on policies addressing inequalities in access and those supporting greater access such as efficient health technology assessment and procurement systems, etc.

IDF Europe is committed to working closely, together with its member associations and other stakeholders, in supporting the realisation of resilient and equitable healthcare systems, equipped with well-resourced and trained health and care workforce, to make sure all citizens have access to high quality affordable care for better outcomes and reduced inequalities.