

European Heart Network response to the WHO discussion paper on a Global Monitoring Framework and Voluntary Global Targets for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (version dated 25 July 2012)

October 2012

Introduction

The **European Heart Network** (EHN) is a Brussels-based alliance linking national heart foundations and other national non-governmental organisations committed to the prevention of cardiovascular diseases, in particular coronary heart disease and stroke, in 26 countries across Europe. <http://www.ehnheart.org/>

Our mission

is to play a leading role in the prevention and reduction of cardiovascular diseases, in particular heart disease and stroke, through advocacy, networking, education and patient support, so that they are no longer a major cause of premature death and disability throughout Europe

Our vision

is that every child born in the new millennium has the right to live until the age of at least 65 without suffering from avoidable cardiovascular disease.

Submission

EHN considers the UN Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases a truly momentous development. EHN welcomes the adoption, by the World Health Assembly, of a global mortality target of a **25% reduction of premature deaths due to NCDs by 2025** in its decision (WHA65(8)).

In July 2012, the WHO published *A comprehensive global monitoring framework, including indicators, and a set of voluntary global targets for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases*. This monitoring framework proposes 10 targets in addition to the mortality target in response to the WHA decision (WHA65(8)).

Eight on exposure:

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| <i>Alcohol</i> | - | 10% relative reduction in overall hazardous and harmful consumption |
| <i>Fat intake</i> | - | 15% relative reduction in mean proportion of total energy intake from saturated fatty acids SFA, with the aim of achieving recommended level of less than 10% of total energy intake |
| <i>Obesity</i> | - | halt the rise in obesity prevalence |

<i>Physical inactivity</i>	-	10% relative reduction in prevalence of insufficient physical activity
<i>Raised blood pressure</i>	-	25% relative reduction in prevalence of raised blood pressure
<i>Raised blood cholesterol</i>	-	20% relative reduction in prevalence of raised total cholesterol
<i>Salt/sodium</i>	-	30% relative reduction in mean population intake, with the aim of achieving recommended level of less than 5g/day
<i>Tobacco</i>	-	30% relative reduction in prevalence of current tobacco smoking

Two on health systems response:

Drug therapy to prevent heart attacks and strokes - 50% of eligible people receive drug therapy

Essential NCD medicines and basic technologies to treat major NCDs - 80% availability

It is EHN's view that these targets should be adopted globally. We acknowledge that not all targets may be equally achievable in all countries in the world. However, all countries must demonstrate their commitment to implement the UN Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases and must accept targets even if they are aspirational.

EHN would like to express support for a target on *trans-fatty acids*. A target to eliminate industrially produced trans-fatty acids was included in earlier versions of the Global Monitoring Framework. EHN calls upon all WHO Member States to follow the examples of several countries and states in the world: to introduce regulatory restrictions on trans-fatty acids.

EHN urges all WHO Member States to accelerate the implementation of the *Framework Convention of Tobacco Control* (FCTC) reminding them that it is a binding treaty and full implementation of the FCTC is essential to achieving the target on tobacco.