

60th DIRECTING COUNCIL

75th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

Washington, D.C., USA, 25–29 September 2023

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RESOLUTION

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POLICY ON PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS, AND YOUNG ADULTS

THE 60th DIRECTING COUNCIL,

Having reviewed the *Policy on Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults* (Document CD60/7);

Recognizing that noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) continue to be the leading causes of ill health, disability, and death in the Region of the Americas, but that efforts to address NCDs to date have focused on the adult population, with children, adolescents, and young adults (24 years of age and younger) largely overlooked;

Understanding that common NCDs, such as type 1 diabetes, asthma, and certain types of cancer, can appear early in life; and that, furthermore, much of the burden of NCDs in adulthood is related to modifiable risk factors that have their origins in the prenatal period and childhood and continue to accumulate as older children and adolescents are exposed to additional social, environmental, and commercial determinants of health;

Considering that cost-effective and affordable population-level interventions to prevent and control NCDs exist—including those that address the social, environmental, and commercial determinants, as well as modifiable NCD risk factors during critical time periods for intervention—and that these can be delivered through community-based, school-based, peer-based, and family-based platforms;

Recognizing the need to strengthen health systems with a focus on primary health care to better meet the diagnosis and care needs of children, adolescents, and young adults with NCDs;

Acknowledging the need to improve surveillance to provide more timely and complete information on the status of NCDs, risk factors, and their determinants among children, adolescents, and young adults for the purpose of policy making,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the *Policy on Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults* (Document CD60/7).
2. To urge all Member States, considering their contexts, needs, vulnerabilities, and priorities, to:
 - a) promote the implementation of the strategic lines of action contained in this policy;
 - b) enhance child, adolescent, and young adult health programs through the integration of NCD prevention and control strategies in school-based and community health programs targeting this population group;
 - c) improve health promotion, NCD prevention, and NCD risk factor reduction among children, adolescents, and young adults through multisectoral actions that target reduction in tobacco use and harmful use of alcohol and promote healthy diet and physical activity;
 - d) strengthen primary health care services to increase coverage, access, availability, and quality of services for NCD screening, diagnosis, treatment, and palliative care among children, adolescents, and young adults;
 - e) strengthen capacity for NCD and risk factor surveillance to provide more timely and complete information on the status of NCDs, risk factors, and determinants among children, adolescents, and young adults, with an equity lens.
3. To request the Director to:
 - a) provide technical cooperation to Member States to strengthen capacities that contribute to the implementation of this policy and the achievement of its strategic lines of action, with support for the implementation of NCD “best buys,” integrating NCDs into primary care, resource mobilization, and partnerships;
 - b) support Member States to strengthen multisectoral actions on NCDs, based on a Health in All Policies approach, with policy coherence across relevant government sectors and promotion of civil society participation in prevention and control of NCDs among children, adolescents, and young adults;
 - c) report periodically to the Governing Bodies on the progress made and challenges faced in the implementation of this policy through a midterm review in 2027 and a final report in 2031.

(Fourth meeting, 26 September 2023)