

Statement to the 150th session of the Executive Board of the

World Health Organization, 24 to 29 January, 2022

on agenda item 7 (b). Draft recommendations to strengthen and monitor diabetes responses within national noncommunicable disease programmes, including potential targets

This statement is supported by the People's Health Movement.

The draft statement on Diabetes provides perfunctory recommendations on several critical issues. MMI and PHM urge that these recommendations provide bolder, clearer and more discrete statements on access to medicines, particularly insulin, integrated approaches to NCDs and the interdependence of diabetes with other social issues. There is no mention of workforce requirements at all.

The draft recommendations on obesity tiptoes around major obstacles to improvement linked to the role of the Big Food industry. We urge WHO to take urgent action to endorse the more scientific nutrient profiling approach in lieu of dubious, industry-led, fragmented food regulations.

WHO must re-assert its role in the Codex Alimentarius Commission to safeguard the policy space for food regulation. WHO must course-correct and not continue with siloed approaches towards NCDs which goes against logic and has failed to deliver the expected results.