

The OneNeurology feedback to the web-based consultation on updating Appendix 3 of the WHO global action plan for the prevention and control of NCDs 2013–2030

Recalling that:

- Neurological conditions are the leading cause of disability adjusted life years (DALYs) and the second leading cause of death globally, accounting for 9 million deaths per year.
- Over the past 30 years, the absolute number of deaths due to neurological disorders has increased by 39%.
- An estimated one in three people worldwide has a neurological disorder at some point in their lifetime (WHO Consolidated report by the Director-General 12 May 2020).
- Four years will soon pass since the Political Declaration of the 3rd High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases recognized that “mental disorders and other mental health conditions, as well as neurological disorders, contribute to the global burden of non-communicable diseases” and called for “integrating them into national responses for non-communicable diseases”. As a result, a scope of action on NCDs has been expanded from so called 4x4 to 5x5 approach, by including mental disorders and other mental health conditions, as well as neurological disorders as the 5th NCD on the one hand, and air pollution as an additional risk factor on the other hand.
- The International Classification of Diseases 11 has come into effect on 1 January 2022 where stroke has been moved from circulatory system diseases back to the disease of the nervous system chapter.

Noting that:

- Neurological disorders and brain health continue to be systemically excluded from the WHO policies addressing major NCDs.
- At present, not only they have not been included in the WHO discussion paper containing a proposed updated Appendix 3, but they have not even been mentioned in the paragraph discussing the scope and exclusion criteria:
- As per the current Appendix 3 proposal:
 - “the 2022 update of Appendix 3 will not include cost-effective interventions on mental health, air pollution, and oral health.*
 - The WHO menu of cost-effective interventions for mental health approved in 2020 will be the reference for recommended interventions on mental health and does not require updating.*
 - WHO is suggesting a phased approach for the development of recommended interventions on air pollution with the launch of the 2022 Compendium of WHO’s and other United Nations’ guidance on health and environment and 2021 WHO global air quality guidelines as initial references, and there will be subsequent in-depth analyses of the effectiveness of these identified interventions from 2023 onwards.”*
 - Recommended interventions on oral health will be developed along the upcoming oral health action plan expected for consultation later this year and for approval in 2023.*

The OneNeurology calls for:

- Similarly to the air pollution approach, **developing a phased approach to gradually integrate neurological disorders in WHO NCD policies,**
- Given the recent approval of the WHO's Global action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders 2022–2031 (GAP), **further updates of NCD cost-effective interventions and best buys to be based on the cost-effectiveness analysis of GAP recommended interventions.**
- **A mention of GAP in the scope section discussing exclusion criteria,**
- **Appropriate integration of the GAP in all NCD policies, recommendations and other actions**
- **Integration of neurological disorders in existing and future agendas such as the SDGs, WHO toolkit for developing a multisectoral action plan for NCDs, NCDs Progress Monitor, International Strategic Dialogue on NCDs and SDGs, NCD Countdown 2030: efficient pathways and strategic investments to accelerate progress towards the SDG 3.4 etc.**
- **Full inclusion of neurological disorders in the post 4th High-Level Meeting vision for NCD agenda.**

Additionally, the OneNeurology Partnership already draws WHO attention to the preparatory process leading to the 4 HLM on NCDs. To this end, we note and emphasize that the relevant WHA75 annex 11 discusses the submission of the UN SG report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present political declaration. In that respect, the Annex 11 reads:

*“12. Activities in the areas of air pollution, mental health conditions (**including mental, neurological and substance use disorders**), climate change and social determinants of health, including regional meetings and decisions, may also contribute to the development of recommendations that may be included in the 2024 progress report of the United Nations Secretary-General to the United Nations General Assembly on the prevention and control of NCDs.”*

The OneNeurology Partnership offers its support in the lead up to the 2025 HLM on NCDs, including to the 2024 progress report.