Agenda Item 8.1 Accelerating progress on prevention and control of NCDs, including oral health and integrated eye care, in the WHO South-East Asia Region

Thank you, Regional Director, Hon. Ministers, Dignitaries, Delegates, and non-State Actors.
IAPO is an alliance of some 300 global patients’ organizations promoting patient centered healthcare globally.

We firstly thank the Regional Director, the Secretariat and Member States who have undertaken great care in tabling the report SEA/RC74/6. We endorse this report and note with regret that a regional stocktaking on the progress of implementation of the NCD Regional Action Plan has revealed uneven progress across technical areas and countries.

IAPO notes with concern that NCDs account for almost two thirds of all deaths in the Region. Nearly half of these deaths occur prematurely between 30 and 69 years of age. IAPO and NCD patients in WHO SEARO now urge the Member States to prioritize NCDS urgently in order not to miss the 2025 global/regional NCD targets as well as the Sustainable Development Goal Target 3.4 set for 2030.

IAPO urges Member States to invest in patient engagement and patient co-creation to boost progress towards the NCD and SDG targets and to overcome COVID-19 related disruption across the whole spectrum of NCD healthcare from preventing to palliative care. Member states must create an enabling ecosystem for patient co-creation in NCD:

- Advocacy, partnerships, and leadership
- Health promotion and risk reduction
- Health systems strengthening for early detection and management of NCDs

Thank for your attention