September 2019

World Obesity Federation Statement to the United Nations High Level Meeting

The World Obesity Federation welcomes commitments towards achieving Universal Health Coverage. However, commitments alone will not achieve our goals. When defining UHC packages, we strongly urge Member States to include obesity.

Obesity is both a disease and a serious risk factor for other NCDs, putting enormous pressure on health systems and jeopardising global prosperity. We must work together to address the economic, social, commercial and environmental determinants of health and reorient primary healthcare towards NCD prevention.

The goal of health for all will be unattainable if we do not address the current projections that 2.7 billion adults will be overweight or living with obesity by 2025, with impacts predicted to cost up to $1.2 trillion per year. Childhood obesity is rising in every country and requires urgent action. Yet across the world people living with obesity often struggle to get a diagnosis, to access care from trained providers, incur substantial expenses for treatment and struggle to manage their weight due to environmental and commercial factors.

Governments must consider the prevention and treatment of obesity a priority when designing UHC policies. This HLM has the potential to be a transformative moment, but only if governments go beyond commitments and take action.

*The World Obesity Federation.*