



## STATEMENT TO THE 75TH WHO REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA

AGENDA ITEM: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR INTEGRATING ESSENTIAL NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASE SERVICES IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

**World Obesity welcomes this report. However, we urge member states to ensure obesity services are also integrated into PHC going forward. As stated in the WHO recommendations, obesity prevention and management should be included in the PHC package.**

Obesity is rising fast in Africa. Adult obesity already exceeds thirty percent in several countries. Obesity is a disease requiring a multisectoral response including in health systems. Prevention policies alone will not be enough to stem the tide. Given that obesity is also a major driver of other NCDs including diabetes, heart disease and cancer, addressing obesity in PHC will deliver a 'double dividend': generating health and economic gains while targeting the root cause of multiple diseases.

Countries in the region are already recognising this and starting to integrate obesity into PHC. To ensure these programmes are truly effective, it is vital to involve people with lived experience of obesity in their design and implementation. This collaborative approach helps create non-stigmatising, patient-centred services that people can trust.

World Obesity calls on all member states to ensure obesity prevention and management services are also considered essential services and integrated into PHC, before the epidemic of obesity takes over the African region too.

**World Obesity Federation**  
3 Waterhouse Square, 138 – 142 Holborn, London, EC1N 2SW

T: +44 (0)207 324 1919 E: [enquiries@worldobesity.org](mailto:enquiries@worldobesity.org)

[www.worldobesity.org](http://www.worldobesity.org)

Registered charity number 1076981. Registered in England and Wales, 3802726. A company limited by guarantee.