To Health Ministers,

We, the undersigned, call on you on World Obesity Day, March 4th 2022, to lend your support and commitment to prevent, manage and treat obesity at the forthcoming World Health Assembly in May 2022.

The prevalence of obesity amongst adults and children continues to grow and has been exacerbated by COVID-19. The World Obesity Atlas 2022 projects that by 2030 there will be 1 billion adults living with obesity.

Children and adults across the globe need your leadership at this critical moment. Actions taken now will make a meaningful difference to our ability to turn the tide on obesity globally.

As a group of patients, health professionals, academics and civil society organisations, we welcome the recent adoption by the WHO’s Executive Board of Draft recommendations for the prevention and management of obesity over the life course. This is an extraordinarily important step in an integrated global response. Along with the proposed Acceleration Plan to pilot actions in 25 countries, these recommendations can serve as the starting point for a truly global, coordinated and effective response.

For far too long we have all failed on obesity, and have witnessed generations of misunderstanding, fragmentation, underinvestment in and stigmatisation of obesity and those affected by it. As a result, the world is catastrophically off track to meet the WHO 2025 obesity targets to which you committed in 2013, jeopardising your ability to meet the other NCD, SDG and WHO 3 Billion targets.

We know we all do not want to stick to ‘Business as usual’. We know we all want to find a way forward.

The good news is that you can.

Success on obesity can be achieved with the right approach, including with the development of a comprehensive Global Action Plan on obesity to bring together all the existing actions, including WHO’s draft recommendations and wider work to accelerate action on obesity in priority countries, under one framework. Such a plan should cover prevention and treatment across the life course, be adaptable for different contexts, and put people at the centre.

We all have a role to play, and your leadership as Health Ministers is vital, more than ever, to ensure that effective action on obesity is taken. It is imperative that we seize the opportunity of the forthcoming World Health Assembly to demand strong, bold, integrated and comprehensive action on obesity, with people at the heart of actions. We have all worked hard to reach this point and the stakes are simply too high not to act.

As such, we call on you as WHO Member States to use the occasion of the World Health Assembly to:

1. Support the adoption of the Draft recommendations for the prevention and management of obesity over the life course and the proposed targets;
2. Request that WHO make obesity a strategic priority which is integrated across different pillars of work in a coordinated way;
3. Request that WHO leads the development of a comprehensive Global Action Plan on Obesity to underpin the implementation of the recommendations and associated WHO Acceleration Plan.

Such action will improve the health of your citizens and uphold the rights of those living with obesity and give them the support and respect they deserve.

Yours,

(Please refer to the back page for all signatures).
Organisations
Adipositasforeningen
AdipositasHilfe Deutschland e.V.
Barifitness
Bangkok Association of Regenerative Health and The Study of Obesity
Desiderata Institute
Egyptian Medical Association for the Study of Obesity
Eurobesitas
French Association for the study of Obesity
Gasol Foundation
Global Obesity Patient Alliance
Health Coalition Aotearoa
Hong Kong Association for the Study of Obesity
Hong Kong Obesity Society
Instituto Cordial
International Diabetes Federation
Japan Society for the Study of Obesity
Lebanese Society for Endocrinology, Diabetes and Lipids
Mexican Society of Obesity
Mongolian Association for the Study of Obesity
NCD Alliance
Netherlands Association for the Study of Obesity
NGO Obesidade Brasil
Obesity Action Coalition
Obesity and Metabolic Surgery Society
Oncology
Obesity Australia
Obesity in Haiti
Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight & Obesity
Prevenindo e Tratando o Excesso de Peso
Sociedad Argentina de Obesidad y Trastornos Alimentarios
Taiwan Medical Association for the Study of Obesity
Tanzania Diabetes Youth Alliance
The George Institute for Global Health
The Obesity Society
The Obesity Society of Nigeria
Weight Issues Network
World Cancer Research Fund
International
Zambian Obesity Foundation

Individuals
Adam McCormack
Alice Kong
Allison Ibrahim
Alma Alejandra Moreno Becerril
Arya M. Sharma, MD, FRCP
Boyd Swinburn
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Dra. Lucía Chávez Vega
Eghon Guzmán Monteneobles
Francisco Andrade Tamayo
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Lasztreg-Pataki Ágnes
Lucy Maria Padilla Torres
Luis Gonzalez Franco
Mohd Ismail Noor
Ng Li Whye
Prof. Karine Clément
Professor Carel le Roux
Professor Dr Milcho Bogoev
Professor Gary Wittert
Professor Louise A Baur
Robert F Kushner, MD
Rodrigo Valenzuela Gonzalez MD
Rodrigo Valenzuela Reyes
Sherée Queen Bryant
Takwe Boniface Njecko
Tanupol Virunhagarun,MD.
Vanessa Lizeth Montoya Roncancio
Wendy Reaser
World Obesity Day
EVERYBODY NEEDS TO ACT

Individuals with organisations

Adipositaschirurgie Selbsthilfe Deutschland e.V.
Melanie Bahike

Asociación Colombiana de Obesidad y Cirugía Bariátrica
Dr. Eduardo Silva B

Asociación Nacional para Personas Obesas y el Tratamiento de la Obesidad
Jesús Javier Díaz Rico

Australia and New Zealand Metabolic and Obesity Surgery Society
Prof. Jeffrey M Hamdorf

Australia New Zealand Obesity Society
Elaine Rush
Jane Martin

Austrian Society for Obesity and Metabolic Surgery
Philipp Beckerhinn

Azerbaijan Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery Associations
Taryel Omarov MD. Phd

Belgian Association for the Study of Obesity
Barea Marie

Bite Back 2030
James Toop

Brazilian Association for the Study of Obesity (ABESO)
Cintia Cercato

Centro Avanzado de Medicina Metabólica y Nutrición
Ada Cuevas
Veronica Alvarez
Rodrigo Alonso

Danish Association for the Study of Obesity
Lise Geisler Bjerregaard

Dasman Diabetes Institute
Dr. Ebaa Al-Ozairi

Galaz Obesidades MX
Fernando Perez

George Institute for Global Health
Prof. Kent Buse

Healthpoint Hospital
Mohammed Al Hadad

Hellenic Medical Association for Obesity
Efthymios Kapantais

Hungarian Society for the Study of Obesity
Dr. Eszter Halmy

Imperial College London Diabetes Centre
Sara Gaafar Ibnauf Suliman

Irish Coalition for People Living with Obesity
Maura Murphy

International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders
Prof. Lilian Kow
Manuela Mazzarella

Indonesian Metabolic & Bariatric Society
Dr. Reno Rudiman

Italian Obesity Network
Giuseppe Fatati

Iraqi Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery
Ramiz Mukhtar

Korean Society for the Study of Obesity
Kyoung-Kon Kim

Kuwait Red Crescent Society
Prof. Hilal Al-Sayer

Ligue contre l’obésité
Alina Constantin

Malaysian Association for the Study of Obesity
Geeta Appannah

Movendi International
Kristina Sperkova

National Institute of Public Health
Simon Barquera

New Life Center
Estuardo Behrens

Norwegian Association for the Study of Obesity
Jørn V. Sagen

Nutrimagen
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Obesidade Brasil
Roger Bongestab
Individuals with organisations

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Obesity Canada
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Dr. Mary Forhan

Obesity Medicine Association
Ethan Lazarus MD

Obesity Prevention and Control
Society of Chinese nutrition
Youfa Wang

Obesity Reviews
David York

Oman Diabetes Association
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Obesity Policy Engagement
Network Italy
Andrea Lenzi

Pennington Biomedical Research Center
John Kirwan

Portuguese Society for the Study of Obesity
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RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences
Grace O'Malley

Romanian Association for the Study of Obesity
Laura Mihalache

RTI International
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Singapore Association for the Study of Obesity
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Slovak Coalition of People with Obesity and Overweight
Hana Vrabcová

Soceidad Ecuatoriana de Cirugia Bariatrica y metabolica
Daniel Guerron

Soceidad Chilena de Obesidad
Alex valenzuela

Society of Bariatric and Metabolic Surgeons of Kazakhstan
Prof. Oral Ospanov

Sociedad Dominicana de Cirugia Metabolica y Bariatica
Dr. Ricardo Domingo

Sociedade Portuguesa de Cirurgia Obesidade
Jorge Nunes Santos MD PhD FACS

STOBlub
Iva Málková

Society of Bariatric and Metabolic Surgeons of Kazakhstan

Taiwan Medical Association for the Study of Obesity
Chiawen Lu

The Bulgarian Society of Bariatric/ Metabolic Surgery
Konstantin Grozdev

The European Coalition for People Living with Obesity
Susie Birney

The Technical University of Kenya
Dr. Alice Ojwang

UCD & St Vincents Hospital Group
Prof. Helen Heneghan

UK Association for the Study of Obesity
Dr. Maria Bryant

UMC Ljubljana and MF Ljubljana
Tadeja Pintar

United World Against Diabetes
Dr. Lalit Kumar Upadhyay

University of Cambridge
Tolu Oni

UZ Leuven
Matthias Lannoo

Wellness for Greatness Kenya
Amonje Moses Oluchiri

World Obesity Federation
John Wilding
Donna Ryan

Zambian Obesity Society
Nsamwa Chitindi