Statement at the 75th Regional Committee For South-East Asia

Agenda Item 8.1 Monitoring progress and acceleration plan for NCDs, including oral health and integrated eye care, in WHO South-East Asia Region

Your excellencies, delegates, and colleagues. I make this statement on behalf of the World Obesity Federation.

The continued efforts to address NCDs across the Southeast Asian region as part of this regional strategy are to be congratulated. In addition to the mentioned NCDs, obesity is also an important NCD, as well as a risk factor, which once low across the Southeast Asian region, is now rapidly rising.

The new global obesity recommendations and accompanying Acceleration Plan adopted at this year’s World Health Assembly provide a framework to address obesity as part of wider NCD efforts, and we encourage Member States and WHO in the region to consider these for inclusion in this regional strategy on NCDs. We congratulate those countries in the region which are considering or have already put themselves forward as front-runner countries for addressing obesity.

The prevention and management of obesity within the NCD agenda is complementary to existing efforts to reduce the double burden of malnutrition across the region. Addressing the commercial determinants of health is of particular importance across both of these agendas, and we encourage Member States to request that WHO provide support to address this.

We stand ready to support efforts across the region. Thank you for your attention.