Statement to the 154th WHO Executive Board

Pillar 1: One billion more people benefiting from universal health coverage
Agenda Item 6. Universal health coverage

Comprehensive action to address obesity is vital for achieving UHC and NCD targets by 2030. We welcome the recognition that we are off track to meet targets including UHC, and indeed without addressing obesity it is certain that UHC and 2030 NCD targets will be missed. 1 billion people globally are estimated to be living with obesity by 2030 thus obesity services including prevention, management and treatment are increasingly essential.

The WHO recommendations on obesity recognise the need for equitable access to a continuum of care from health promotion and prevention to diagnosis, treatment, management of obesity as part of UHC. We welcome the draft decision’s underscoring the role that empowered communities play in achieving UHC and urge Member States to meaningfully engage with those with lived experience.

Primary Health Care must include obesity and NCDs as the cornerstone of people-centred, integrated health system and foundation for achieving UHC. We welcome experiences of front-runner countries informing and spearheading action for all Member States and are committed to working together as civil society to accelerate action on obesity.