Statement to the 72\textsuperscript{nd} Session of the Regional Committee for Africa

\textbf{Agenda Item 7. Pen-plus – a regional strategy to address severe noncommunicable diseases at first-level referral health facilities}

World Obesity welcomes the regional strategy to address severe NCDs. Obesity is an important NCD as well as a risk factor which, once low across the African region, is rapidly rising, especially amongst women.

The new global obesity recommendations and accompanying Acceleration Plan adopted at this year’s WHA provide a framework to address obesity in health systems, and we congratulate those countries in the region which are considering or have already put themselves forward as front-runner countries. This regional strategy on severe NCDs should incorporate some of these obesity recommendations, including on healthcare professional training, screening in primary care and the use of multi-disciplinary teams.

This is needed in parallel to reducing the double burden of malnutrition within nutrition and NCD prevention programmes.

\textbf{Action now to prevent obesity and other NCDs is needed to reduce the potential impact that obesity will have on health service needs in the region.}