



**Statement by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)
66th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe**

Agenda Item 5 (c) Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in the WHO European Region

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), representing over 900 cancer organisations across 155 countries.

More than 3 million people across Europe are diagnosed with cancer every year, with 1.7 million cancer deaths recorded annually and striking disparities within and between countries and populations. UICC therefore welcomes the new Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the WHO European Region, and in particular the importance given to a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to health systems strengthening.

The goal to reduce mortality from cervical, breast and colorectal cancers through early detection, prompt referral, and appropriate treatment will be critical for delivering the Action Plan's overall target to reduce premature mortality from NCDs by 25% by 2025.

The delivery of essential cancer medicines and radiotherapy are core components of high-quality multidisciplinary cancer treatment. UICC strongly supports the call for rational selection, better management and appropriate use of medicines and technologies that are affordable and of assured quality. It is imperative for all countries to understand the prioritisation of essential cancer medicines and assure their routine availability. To this end, we encourage use of the recently updated WHO Model List of Essential Medicines, with particular reference to the palliative care and cancer medicines.

Whilst the European Action Plan addresses other key cancer prevention and control strategies, we would like to draw attention to three areas in which language could be strengthened: surveillance, vaccination and palliative care. UICC urges the inclusion of:

- 1) Specific actions to strengthen population-based disease registries in line with the WHO Global Action Plan on NCDs, which includes an indicator of cancer incidence, by type of cancer, per 100,000 population
- 2) The definition of target populations and coverage for HPV and HBV vaccination
- 3) Specific action to increase access and availability of palliative care services in line with Member States' commitments articulated in the 2014 World Health Assembly Resolution on Palliative Care.