



**78th World Health Assembly, 19–27 May 2025**

**WHO headquarters, Geneva**

**Constituency statement on agenda item 13.1** – Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

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**This statement is supported by the following Non-State Actors, who are all in official relations with WHO:**

1. Multiple Sclerosis International Federation (MSIF)
2. The International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE)
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4. World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology (WFNMB)
5. The International Society of Radiology (ISR)
6. International Council of Nurses (ICN)
7. NCD Alliance (NCDA)

## **Statement**

Distinguished delegates,

The adoption of the Intersectoral Global Action Plan (IGAP) on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders by the World Health Organisation in 2022 marked a turning point in global health, recognising neurological health as a core element of the noncommunicable disease (NCD) agenda.

The 2018 Political Declaration on NCDs acknowledged that “neurological disorders contribute to the global burden of NCDs” ([emro.who.int](https://emro.who.int)), an important step in recognising neurological disorders as part of the 5x5 framework.

Excluding neurological disorders from the upcoming 2025 Political Declaration would reverse this progress.

Neurological disorders are a leading cause of disability and death globally, affecting over three billion people, including children and older persons, with conditions like epilepsy, dementia, and multiple sclerosis ([NCD Alliance](#)). Many disproportionately affect women, both in prevalence and impact. Yet, they remain underrepresented in global NCD responses.

The 2025 UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs presents a critical opportunity to address this gap ([OneNeurology](#)). Progress on the Universal Health Coverage depends on addressing the full spectrum of conditions. We urge Member States and the WHO to:

1. Explicitly include neurological conditions in the 2025 Political Declaration with concrete commitments to reduce their impact, in line with the 2018 Political Declaration;
2. Align IGAP implementation with broader NCD efforts;
3. Ensure equitable access to diagnostics and treatments for all NCDs, including neurological conditions;
4. Partner with the neurology community to co-create integrated, person-centred care pathways.

We urge Member States to lead with inclusion and ambition.

Thank you.

**244 words – 2 min**