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ERS and ELF response: UN General Assembly adoption of global declaration for NCDs

The European Respiratory Society and the European Lung Foundation praise the UN General Assembly for the adoption of a global declaration on noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health despite geopolitical pressures.¹

This declaration is pivotal in the global response to respiratory diseases, advancing equitable, integrated care for lung health worldwide. For the first time, a declaration includes a dedicated section on respiratory disease (article 55). This article is set to promote national policies for an integrated approach to lung health, including the scale up of prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment of asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), the two major chronic respiratory diseases (CRDs). We stand ready to assist the UN General Assembly and Member States to see progress on the targets particularly as they relate to respiratory diseases.²

In this context, in June of this year, ERS and WHO Europe published the first ever regional report “*Chronic respiratory diseases in the European Region*” highlighting the burden of respiratory diseases, the state of health systems, and the research needs for CRDs. ERS and ELF brought the key findings of the report to the discussions of the UN High Level Meeting of NCDs through a side event in New York. These efforts are well reflected in Article 55 of the political declaration incorporating the recommendations of the WHO-ERS report, calling for “access to effective treatment, strengthened diagnostic services, and establishing structured programmes and services for the long-term management of CRDs.”

¹ United States Mission to the United Nations New York. ECOSOC 2025-112. <https://healthpolicy-watch.news/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/diplomatic-note-us-position-on-ncd-political-declaration-ecosoc-2025-112.pdf>

² UN General Assembly. A/80/L.34. <https://docs.un.org/en/A/80/L.34> :

at least 80 per cent of countries have implemented policies and legislative, regulatory and fiscal measures to support health objectives related to the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and promotion of mental health and well-being, in line with national circumstances, by 2030.

at least 80 per cent of primary health care facilities in all countries have availability of World Health Organization-recommended essential medicines and basic technologies for noncommunicable diseases and mental health conditions, at affordable prices, by 2030.

at least 60 per cent of countries have financial protection policies or measures in place that cover or limit the cost of essential services, diagnostics, medicines and other health products for noncommunicable diseases and mental health conditions by 2030.

at least 80 per cent of countries have an operational, multisectoral, integrated policy, strategy or action plan on noncommunicable diseases and mental health and well-being by 2030.

at least 80 per cent of countries have an operational noncommunicable diseases and mental health surveillance and monitoring system, in line with national circumstances, by 2030