

Response by World Organization of Family Doctors to the WHA74 Agenda Item 13.2 (Political declaration of the third high- level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases)

27 May 2021

The World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA) represents over half a million family doctors in over 150 countries and territories across the world. Its mission is to improve the quality of life of people through fostering high standards of care in general practice/family medicine.

WONCA welcomes the [Political Declaration](#) of The Third High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases and the information of the Preparatory Process Leading to the Fourth High-Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly On The Prevention and Control Of NCDs In 2025.

WONCA welcomes the recognition of the role that primary health care teams can have in the improvement and management of NCDs and the delivery of integrated people-centred health services, and the mention of current existing limitations.

Primary care teams which include family doctors, are essential in the delivery of good quality, cost-effective, comprehensive, coordinated, continuous, person-centred primary care in high-, middle- and low-income countries alike.

Literature on health policy suggests that an effective approach to improving the quality of care for people with NCDs is through improved primary care delivery.

For these reasons, WONCA recommends:

- First, increasing funding at every country and region to further strengthen primary care service delivery in order to meet the growing burden of NCDs.
- Second, investing in, and supporting the recruitment, education and adequate training of a primary care workforce, including increasing the numbers of family doctors, to deliver preventive, promotive, acute, chronic, rehabilitative and palliative care in the community.
- Third, the preparatory process leading to the “Fourth High-Level Meeting of The United Nations General Assembly on The Prevention and Control on NCDs” should include an explicit emphasis on the role of PHC teams in NCDs’ prevention, diagnosis, and management, and the care of people living with NCDs. Including an emphasis on the training requirements and support needed for all members of primary health care teams.