

Statement to agenda item 7. 'Political declaration of the third high- level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases'

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 24– 29 January 2022

Handicap International Federation, International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics, World Federation of Chiropractic, International Spinal Cord Society, World Confederation for Physical Therapy, World Federation of Occupational Therapists, supported by the Global Rehabilitation Alliance, Light for the World and G-Musc, welcome the references to rehabilitation in the Report by the Director-General: 1) the surge in rehabilitation needs due to COVID-19 and among people with NCDs; 2) the unmet rehabilitation needs for people with neurological disorders; and 3) the importance of early-rehabilitation after traumatic brain and spinal cord injury.

Rehabilitation is necessary to reduce the consequences of NCDs, shorten hospital length of stay, improve functioning, slow or stop deterioration in health, and improve quality of life, including for persons with disabilities with different health conditions.

Globally, 2.4 billion people would benefit from rehabilitation. The prevalence of NCDs greatly contributes to this figure: in 2010, 50% of disability-adjusted life years were attributable to NCDs, in low and middle-income countries.

However, rehabilitation is not prioritized in health systems, is under-resourced, and remains inaccessible or unaffordable for most people.

We therefore call on Member States to:

- Embed rehabilitation in the 2023–2030 road map for the global action plan for the prevention and control of NCDs 2013–2030.
- Integrate rehabilitation at all levels of the health system, from primary health care, to hospitals and specialized care, across the continuum of NCD care
- Include rehabilitation including for assistive technology in home/community-based services, by developing locally owned and skilled workforce.
- Leverage rehabilitation onto the WHA agenda, with a view to providing the political framework for stronger commitments and wider coverage.