The Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS)

The Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS), representing more than 70,000 professionals working in some aspect of respiratory health or disease, commends the WHO for developing this draft Framework and thanks for the opportunity to comment on it:

1. It would be important to include professional societies dealing with all areas of health (including respiratory) as an important partner of government agencies
   a. Should be mentioned in the Executive summary as well as in table 1 on page 15
   b. Professional societies can assist in developing standards of care (as an example: “International Standards of tuberculosis care” developed collaboratively by representatives of governments, WHO, professional societies, universities, civil society, affected communities etc.) which led to an improvement of tuberculosis management worldwide
2. Background (page 5): it would be of interest to refer to the WHO campaign “Health for all by the year 2000” and mention this important initiative together with the 1978 Alma Ata declaration on primary health care
3. Engagement of the community is mentioned on page 11 but could be integrated in figure 1 as a key component to get buy in from the community
4. Social mobilization programmes in low and middle income countries to demand high quality health services will increase political commitment and promote intensified collaboration between sectors, this should be mentioned for instance on page 19 in the paragraph “For non-state actors and communities”
5. In addition to M and E, surveillance of diseases should be improved and mentioned in the text and in the Executive Summary explicitly, surveillance data can be provided also by non-state actors as well (example Global Asthma Network)
6. Access to essential medicines is still lacking in many countries and poor people need to pay for these medicines out of pocket, and this leads to more poverty. Industry needs to be involved as a sector to facilitate the availability of affordable good quality medicines for communicable and no communicable diseases (good progress was made in the last decade for example in this area for HIV and tuberculosis)
7. It would be valuable to explicitly mention where applicable in the text the proposed Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals
8. Policies are often developed and known in Ministries in the capital but policy transfer to sub national level is often delayed or does not happen at all: the issue of policy transfer could be mentioned in the figure on page 20
9. All main NCDs should be mentioned at least once in this document: CVD, Cancer, diabetes, COPD and asthma combined cause 36 out of the 56 million deaths in the world (WHO data 2012) and this is worthwhile highlighting
10. Annex 1: in the next draft of this Framework an indicator on access to essential medicines should be added