Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) outpace all other causes of morbidity and mortality each year though most NCDs have modifiable risk factors (i.e. tobacco use, insufficient physical activity, harmful use of alcohol, and unhealthy diets) and are thus preventable. The Global Forum of Government Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers (GFGCNMO) applauds and supports the growing attention to NCDs and calls for stronger commitment for implementing actions leading to evidence-based solutions that will address NCDs and risk factors that impact on individuals, families, communities, and society. We acknowledge that NCDs impact is greatest among the poor and vulnerable and greatly increases the demand on the health systems, particularly given the critical global shortage of human and other resources. Tackling four risk factors - tobacco use, insufficient physical activity, harmful use of alcohol and unhealthy diets - through interventions that are “best buys” as identified by WHO to greatly reduce the NCDs impact, the Government Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers (GCNMOs) strongly recommend to continue to implement these “best buys” to tackle NCDs.

The GCNMOs support the 2008-2013 Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases. However, to be truly effective, nurses and midwives must be present at all policy tables’ discussions and decision making bodies that define a country’s strategy to deal with NCDs. As GCNMOs we are committed to working with policy makers and planners at all levels, to move forward the NCDs agenda. At these discussions GCNMOs will make clear that a holistic approach is required, that people centred primary care is crucial, that prevention must be the cornerstone and that NCDs and risk factors need to be addressed throughout the lifespan. In addressing NCDs, we advocate a rights-based person and family-centered approach in a continuous and comprehensive care model. Furthermore, we support nurses and midwives as case managers and care coordinators.

Policy changes and emphasis on prevention and health promotion influence the health of populations. Research demonstrates the positive impact of nurses and midwives in addressing NCDs and risk factors. Government Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers are positioned to offer leadership and to work with all levels of government, national nursing...
and midwifery associations and regulators, employers and academics to ensure greater emphasis is placed on NCDs and risks factors. This emphasis should be reflected in transformed curricula, standards of education and practice, in revised competency statements and in updated job descriptions and role definitions. This emphasis will also allow nurses and midwives to further increase their critical contribution to helping people avoid and cope with NCDs. We commit to working collectively and in our own countries to address NCDs evidence-based nursing and midwifery practice in the following manner:

1. **Policy and advocacy**
   a. Advocate for the inclusion of NCDs in national health policies plans and strategies, as appropriate.
   b. Integrate NCDs into national nursing and midwifery strategies/action plans to provide a framework for nursing and midwifery interventions addressing issues of policy, standards, research, education and practice, including establishing a pool of NCDs nurse and midwife experts.
   c. Advocate for the inclusion of NCDs risk factors screening and evidence-based interventions to promote healthy lifestyles for all people throughout the life span and health care continuum.
   d. Ensure the inclusion of nursing and midwifery stakeholders (e.g. regulators, associations, academics, etc.) in national health policy discussions related to NCDs in all levels in the health system.
   e. Develop a strategy and programs to reduce NCDs risks among nurses and midwives, promoting a healthy workforce and promoting positive role modelling.

2. **Research**
   a. Prioritize support for nursing and midwifery research in NCDs, including efficacy and cost effectiveness of interventions, and translate knowledge into evidence-based practice.
   b. Work with partners to secure funding of research and innovative projects, including the use of technology, to address NCDs.

3. **Education**
   a. Work with education institutions and regulators to promote greater emphasis on NCDs in the nursing and midwifery curricula and to ensure faculty preparedness to facilitate competence in NCDs.
   b. Work with WHO Nursing and Midwifery Collaborating Centres, national nurses’ and midwives’ associations and others to develop and disseminate NCDs information and tools to enhance the nurses’ and midwives’ role in NCDs.
   c. Promote health care workers’ regular access to continuing education related to health promotion, NCDs prevention and care.

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