Dear NCD Commission at WHO,

FIGO would please like to submit our comment on your web-based consultation regarding Noncommunicable Diseases and their risk factors.

Our comment is in the name of Johan Vos, Chief Executive, FIGO

Comment as follows:
The UN Secretary General in his report on the Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases to the UN General Assembly on 19th May 2011 noted that “the rising prevalence of high blood pressure, diabetes and gestational diabetes is increasing adverse outcomes in pregnancy and maternal health. Improving maternal health and nutrition plays an important role in reducing the future development of such diseases in offspring”

The Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases held in New York on 19th September 2011 noted with concern that maternal and child health is inextricably linked with non-communicable diseases and their risk factors, specifically such as prenatal malnutrition and low birth weight create a predisposition to obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes later in life, and that pregnancy conditions, such as maternal obesity and gestational diabetes, are associated with similar risks in both the mother and her offspring.

The Declaration advocates for the inclusion of non-communicable disease prevention and control within sexual and reproductive health and maternal and child health programs, especially at the primary health-care level, as well as other programs, as appropriate, and also integrate interventions in these areas into non-communicable disease prevention programs

The current draft in its first recommendation addresses healthier environment through improvements in indoor and outdoor air quality, and healthier design of buildings, roads, and communities. And it addresses the need for mental health interventions to be integrated into the development of UHC and strengthening primary health care responses, especially through integration of NCDs into programmes for sexual and reproductive health, maternal and child health, HIV, and TB.

There is, however, nothing mentioned in any preceding paragraphs about the important link between maternal health and future burden of NCDs both for the mother and offspring and the impact of NCDs such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity during pregnancy and the severe adverse impact on perinatal outcomes.

FIGO request the following statement to be inserted in the draft:

- Maternal and child health is inextricably linked with non-communicable diseases and their risk factors, specifically such as prenatal malnutrition and low birth weight create a predisposition to obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes later in life, and that pregnancy conditions, such as maternal obesity and gestational diabetes are associated with similar risks in both the mother and her offspring.
- Maternal malnutrition, obesity, hyperglycaemia and hypertension in pregnancy are significant public health challenges with adverse impact on maternal, newborn and child health and significant
implications for the future burden of obesity, type 2 diabetes and cardio metabolic disorders globally.

- Pregnancy (pre, during and after) offers a window of opportunity to provide services to reduce traditional maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality indicators as well as address intergenerational prevention of NCDs through integration of maternal and child health services with health promotion and NCD prevention thereby helping build sustainable future health and integrated services at the primary care level.
- Any efforts on NCD prevention and control must begin with and substantially focus on preconception and maternal health.

Johan Vos, Chief Executive, FIGO

Jennifer Crago
Director Communications, Advocacy & Publications
FIGO
FIGO House, Suite 3–Waterloo Court, 10 Theed Street, London SE1 8ST, UK
Tel: +44 20 7928 1781 Mobile: +44 (0)7383 025 731
www.figo.org @FigoHQ