24 August 2017

Dear Sirs

Public web-based consultation on the Member State-led draft outcome document for WHO Global Conference on NCDs.

On behalf of the International Federation of Fertility Societies, in official relations with WHO, I respectfully submit comments on the draft outcome statement “MONTEVIDEO ROADMAP 2018-2030 ON NCDs AS A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY”.

We share with the WHO the importance of NCDs in the priorities for the WHO to improve global health and the need to have a robust global response to reduce mortality and morbidity arising from NCDs.

We draw to your attention that whilst not specifically referenced in the WHO Global status of NCDs, common underlying diseases that cause infertility do fall within this category such as benign gynaecological disease (e.g. fibroids prevalent in Africa and the Caribbean).

Furthermore, there are strong associations between smoking, alcohol, obesity, other environmental factors and infertility and reproductive outcomes. We therefore endorse the actions set out in paragraphs 8-17 that will support and improve public health interventions and drive the preventative strategies to lessen the burden of NCDs.

We also endorse actions (Paragraphs 24-30) that will improve public health through engaging private sector and governments to take such steps that will limit the negative impact of products and environment on health as we know this will also improve reproductive outcomes and have potential intergenerational benefits. As a non-state actor (Paragraphs 31-33) we have an important role to support the actions set out in this statement. In reproductive health, our constituency is engaged in periconceptual activities and is uniquely placed to provide public health information and deliver interventions that will improve not only reproductive health outcomes but also produce longer term health benefits for women and deliver intergenerational benefits.

We commit through our actions and within our scope to support this agenda.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Kennedy
IFFS President