World Child Cancer - a UK based charity whose mission is to improve the rate of diagnosis, accessibility of treatment and quality of support for children with cancer, and their families, in the developing world - welcomes WHO commitment to take bold action and accelerate the progress to reduce the premature mortality from NCDs in line with the SDG3.

We however want to express our concern as we believe that the draft outcome document of Montevideo Conference does not address the unique need of children and young people affected by NCDs. Indeed it specifically children dying from these diseases by referring specifically to those over 30 only.

Over 300,000 children worldwide develop cancer each year, most of them living in developing countries. Childhood cancer is curable but the availability of appropriate treatment is profoundly unequal: if in developed countries survival rates exceed 80%, in developing countries as few as 10% of children survive cancer. Not only do we believe that there is a moral argument to address the disparity of childhood cancer care across the world, but we have also collected strong evidence from our work in Africa and Asia that childhood cancer can be treated successfully at a relative low cost – representing a cost-effective intervention that can bring very high public health returns from investment.

We endorse the actions proposed in the paper which are appropriate and could be effective – but it is vital that you do not overlook the needs of children dying unnecessarily from NCD’s in significant numbers. We therefore ask for a specific reference to children affected by NDCs in the Montevideo Declaration in order to recognise their unique needs and lay the basis for finding shared solutions.

Regards,

Jon Rosser