World Obesity Federation comments on the
Draft outcome document for the WHO Global Conference on NCDs

The World Obesity Federation is a not-for-profit organisation in official relations with the World Health Organization, representing professional members of the scientific, medical and research communities in more than 50 regional and national obesity associations. Through our membership we create a global network of organisations dedicated to solving the problems of obesity. For more information, visit www.worldobesity.org.

General comment

The World Obesity Federation supports the draft outcomes document and agrees with the need to reinvigorate political action by Heads of State and Governments towards tackling NCDs. The consequences of the rising levels of obesity around the world are already putting health systems under strain and the need for national and international action has never been greater. It is essential to involve sectors beyond health, and to recognize the impact of sedentary behavior and the expanding markets for highly processed foods and beverages now affecting urban and, increasingly, rural populations.

We are particularly keen to see the Uruguay meeting endorse the call to WHO to establish a commission to address the commercial determinants of health. We would like to encourage the proposed commission to look not only at determinants but also at the measures that are needed to ensure accountability: i.e. that the actors whose policies shape those determinants – both commercial and governmental actors – can be fully held to account.

Lastly, while we acknowledge the role that all parties can play in reinvigorating political action, we urge Heads of State and Governments to ensure that their policy-making and political processes are not weakened by conflicting interests, and that the principles developed for tobacco control are extended to include other major industry sectors which promote the consumption of products that undermine health.

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