

Non communicable diseases and the Irish Aid White Paper

In September 2011 Dr James Reilly, the minister for Health attended the High Level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (NCD). He subsequently signed the resolution of the meeting on behalf of the Irish Government.

The following points in the resolution are significant in relation to low income countries and to the forthcoming White Paper on development aid being prepared by Irish Aid.

(the numbers refer to the sections of this resolution UN ref A/res/66/2 http://www.who.int/nmh/events/un_ncd_summit2011/political_declaration_en.pdf and are highlighted as appropriate)..

We, Heads of State ... address (the topic).. with a particular focus on ...challenges..., **particularly for developing countries**.(1).

Recognise.. international cooperation **in assisting.. developing countries**.. to generate an effective response (4)

Recognise the need for greater measures **at global, regional** and national level (6)

Promoting.. **global action** (13)

Nearly 80% of these deaths occurred in **developing countries** (14)

Note that NCD are among the leading causes of preventable morbidity and of related disability (15).

Recognise that.. maternal and perinatal conditions and nutritional deficiencies are the **most common causes of death in Africa**. The rapidly rising incidence of NCD which are projected to become the most common causes of death (in Africa) by 2030 (16).

Note with concern NCD affects people of all ages and further that **poor populations** and those living in **vulnerable situations, in particular in developing countries** bear a disproportionate burden (23).

Maternal and child health is linked with NCD... prenatal malnutrition and low birth weight. (26)

Smoke exposure from indoor cooking.. a disproportionate effect on **women and children in poor populations** (28).

The importance in strengthening health systems... **particularly in developing countries** (30).

NCD can be controlled through collective action by all member states.. at regional and global level by raising the priority in **development cooperation** by enhancing such cooperation. (33).

Accelerate implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and to encourage countries that have not yet done so (43).

Promote breastfeeding (43).

NCD policies into health planning processes(45)

Provide adequate resources through **bilateral channels** (45).

Strengthen **international cooperation**, through the exchange of best practices etc. (46)

It is suggested that the commitment to developing countries throughout the agreement suggests it be appropriately recognised in the forthcoming white paper on Irish Aid and that the Department of Health liaise with Irish Aid in this regard.

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