



Progress on the prevention and control of NCDs: Report of the UN Secretary-General

UN Secretary General NCD Progress Report signals need for more engagement with the private sector

Statement by the International Food & Beverage Alliance

NYC, USA - 9 March 2018 – The UN Secretary-General's [progress report on non-communicable diseases](#) (NCDs, published last week, reiterates, four years since the last such report, that progress has been “*insufficient and uneven*”. In view of the major challenges ahead, the Secretary General calls for a “*paradigm shift*” to translate commitments into actions.

The International Food & Beverage Alliance fully agrees. IFBA was established in 2008 to agree and implement a set of concrete commitments, against the backdrop of growing concern by the World Health Organisation and others about the rapid rise in obesity and NCDs globally. The UN's 2011 Political Declaration on NCDs* included a clear call on food and beverage manufacturers to improve the formulation of their products, to better inform consumers by means of nutrition labelling, to reduce the impact of high salt, sugar and fat marketing on children, and to contribute to promoting healthy lifestyles. IFBA's 2008 commitments, since updated and expanded, fully reflect the roadmap set by the UN in 2011.

Although the UN Secretary General's latest report denounces slow progress, and we agree that much more work is needed, IFBA is encouraged by the Secretary General's call on governments to “*strengthen capacity to engage with the private sector*”. As leading food and non-alcoholic beverage manufacturers, we recognize the responsibility our industry has and the contribution we can make to this effort and have committed to do our part with a multifaceted approach based on the 2011 Political Declaration. While the twelve IFBA member companies have taken bold steps to improve the formulation, labelling and marketing of their products, much more can be done by reaching out to other market players at a regional and local level, as well as by engaging with the full value-chain, under government leadership.

The UN Secretary General's report should be a reminder to Member States that much more can be achieved by bringing together all relevant non-State actors around shared objectives, by mobilising resources and committing all those who can make a difference to specific, measurable actions addressing the key determinants of NCDs. This will not be easy, but it is in our view an indispensable ingredient to ensure that the next UN progress report can reach more satisfactory conclusions on progress achieved.

*Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases

http://www.who.int/nmh/events/un_ncd_summit2011/political_declaration_en.pdf

For more information contact press@ifballiance.org

About the International Food & Beverage Alliance: IFBA is a group of twelve global food and non-alcoholic beverage companies - The Coca-Cola Company, Danone, Ferrero, General Mills, Grupo Bimbo, Kellogg's, McDonald's, Mars, Mondelēz International, Nestlé, PepsiCo and Unilever – who share a common goal of helping people around the world achieve balanced diets and healthy, active lifestyles. IFBA is a non-commercial, non-profit making organization, in special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. For more information, please visit www.ifballiance.org