Bangkok Statement

The 13th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion: Advancing Injury and Violence Prevention to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 5-7 November 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

We, the participants of the 13th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, held during 5-7 November 2018 in Bangkok, having reviewed and discussed the progress of injury prevention and safety promotion after the 12th World Conference; recalling the theme of this conference in advancing injury and violence prevention to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); now call for stronger and better coordinated actions of whole-of-government and whole-of-society to prevent and minimize the impact of injuries and violence.

We recognize that all unintentional injuries and violence are preventable; these include road traffic injuries, drowning, burns, falls, poisoning, drug overdose, suicides and homicides, community violence, and violence against women, children, the elderly, other vulnerable population and youth violence; yet these issues remain major public health and development challenges among low- and middle-income countries.

We recognize that the end of the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011–2020 is approaching, yet road traffic injuries remain a major public health and development challenge among low- and middle-income countries. With the current trend, the SDG road safety-related target 3.6 and target 11.2 are not achievable, unless Member States, the World Health Organization, the UN Regional Commissions, and other relevant agencies intensify their efforts in implementing the United Nations General Assembly Resolution, A/RES/72/271 on “Improving global road safety” which require effective multi-sectoral coordination and adopting comprehensive evidence-based and effective interventions on road safety risk factors and make use of the UN Road Safety Fund.

We are concerned that violence against women, girls and children is rooted in gender-based discrimination and inequality, harmful cultural and social norms that perpetuate violence. We are further concerned that SDG Target 5.2 to “eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation”, Target 16.1 to “significantly reduce all forms of violence and related deaths everywhere”, Target 16.2 to “end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children”, and World Health Assembly Resolution WHA67.15 on "Strengthening the role of the health system in addressing violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children” can not be achieved unless comprehensive approaches which address multiple risks and strengthen protective factors are implemented at scale through law enforcement and intersectoral actions, full and sustained commitment by successive Governments.

We are concerned that drowning is a serious but neglected public health threat claiming almost 400,000 lives a year worldwide. More than 90% of this death toll is in low- and middle-income countries. Progress has been slow, and effective drowning prevention interventions need to be scaled up with intersectoral coordination on drowning prevention national water safety plans. Further, we note with concern the profound disparities in access to basic life saving emergency care where the injured in low-income countries are nearly three times as likely to die as those in high-income countries. The scale up of simple, low-cost emergency care interventions could save millions of lives each year.

We recognize that more globally coordinated efforts are needed in other areas of injury prevention including falls, burns, poisoning, homicides and suicides, where all actors need to develop strong and sustainable action plans in these areas.

We call upon governments, development partners, UN agencies, civil society organizations, academic institutions, private sector and other injury prevention practitioners to support effective injury prevention and safety promotion.
Greater leadership, efforts and accountability
To redouble efforts to strengthen multi-sectoral actions through the whole-of-government and whole-of-society efforts in injury and violence prevention and promotion of a safe household, community and society; greater leadership and prioritization of violence and injury prevention guided by evidence on epidemiological burdens; support coordinated actions by designated national focal points or units in the Ministry of Health and related ministries; produce regular national injury and violence monitoring reports demonstrating the commitment and accountability of governments and other stakeholders. There is a need to seize the political window of opportunity of SDG in addressing all types of injuries and violence in order to achieve the injury and violence related targets.

Strengthen policies and legislation and regulatory capacities
To strengthen the institutional capacities, human resources, provide adequate funding, accelerate implementation of the UN General Assembly Resolution on improving road safety and progress towards achieving the 12 Global Voluntary Road Safety Targets as agreed by UN Member States, implement relevant UN Conventions which end all forms of violence against women, girls and children; strengthen policies and legislation to mitigate risks and ensure safer road systems; strengthen enforcement capacity, improve the criminal justice system, increase penalties for transgressions in order to send a strong message that all forms of violence are unacceptable by the society. Give special attention to vulnerable populations by upholding the goals of equity and social inclusion of all people who are affected by unintentional injuries and violence, in order to achieve all SDG-related injuries and violence targets.

Shaping societal norms
To envision and promote a societal norm towards “zero tolerance” of all forms of interpersonal violence and introduce comprehensive approaches that reduce risk factors and enhance protective factors. To apply and scale up a safe systems approach to road safety, based on “vision zero” that increases the safety for all users on all roads. Engage stakeholders in dialogue and advocacy for Safe Communities movement.

Scaling up intervention for prevention of all forms of injury and violence in an inclusive manner
To introduce and scale up the implementation of effective prevention interventions for unintentional injuries and violence through effective inter-sectoral coordination and implementation of relevant national safety plans and prevention policies, programmes and practices. Strengthen pre-hospital care and trauma services to save lives from injuries, and post-hospital rehabilitation and support.

Strengthening monitoring capacities
To strengthen the national information systems which support monitoring progress of safety promotion, prevention of all unintentional injuries and violence disaggregated by population groups and other stratification for specific policy interventions; strengthen community capacity to monitor local injuries and violence, promote research to generate locally specific evidence, support implementation research which facilitates scale up of effective programmes, policies and practices, and effective use of this information and evidence for policy decision making, for public reporting and to drive safety and non-violence agenda in our societies.

The conference recognizes that harmful alcohol use contributes to all types of injury, violence and NCDs, causing significant morbidity and economic loss. This burden can be minimized by stronger alcohol policies and cross-cutting alcohol harm reduction strategies. Similarly the conference requests WHO as a health promotion institution and role model, consider introducing a policy that “Health conferences or meetings organized by WHO, exclude support for alcoholic beverages.”