FROM: Dr Mukesh Kapila, CEO

TO: Executive Committee

SUBJECT: Latest statement of the core strategy of the Defeat-NCD Partnership

ACTION REQUESTED: The EC is advised to adopt the following decision:

Decision EC 3/2019; effective date 22 April 2019

The Executive Committee takes note of the latest iteration of the core strategy statement (EC Doc 4A/2019) for the Defeat-NCD Partnership and, noting that this will continue to evolve with experience, requests the CEO to consult with the Governance Mechanism stakeholders on any substantive changes and keep the EC advised accordingly.

BACKGROUND:

The original "concept note" for the Defeat-NCD Partnership was formulated by Dr Mukesh Kapila following stakeholder and potential donor consultations and adopted by the interim Governing Board at its constitutive first meeting on 31 January 2018 (GB Doc 4/2018). It provided the basis for our initial work while continuing to evolve. A polished, more developed version was published as a brochure at the formal launch of the Partnership at UNGA in New York in September 2018.

The interim Board and other expert attendees reviewed the strategy at its face-to-face consultation in December 2018 in Geneva. They confirmed the continued relevance and central importance of the four pillars of work and offered useful insights to deepen and fine-tune the strategy.

The attached strategy statement reflects their advice and the experience gained from our own initial work in 2018. In summary, these concern more explicit consideration to gender, and greater recognition of the poverty and inequality dimensions in NCD programming within a multisectoral mindset. Recognising the interconnections between NCDs and communicable and other conditions (such as mental health, disabilities, HIV, AIDS, TB) – points to an orientation towards strengthening health systems and universal health coverage approaches rather than verticalised NCD programming. There was also encouragement to advance the operational humanitarian window for NCD services for people affected by crises (disasters and conflicts) that is already indicated in our Pillar 2.

At the same time, a globalised age where all issues are interconnected risks paralysis of action. Thus, Defeat-NCD needs to keep its focus on practical outcomes that help more and more poor people and disadvantaged communities to prevent and manage their NCDs. That is our ultimate bottom-line of what we do and drives everything we do.

Within the NCD sphere, the focus on diabetes and hypertension remains correct but we can also explore how chronic respiratory conditions and selected cancers could be integrated onto our "operating platform" where that is feasible.

Pillar 3 on the "affordability and accessibility of essential NCD supplies" (aka the Defeat-NCD Marketplace) has been the workstream that is arising the most interest and offers of investment, and is the potential driver of sustainability for the whole of the Defeat-NCD Partnership. However, the Marketplace will not succeed without the other pillars becoming equally effective i.e. without driving the demand side (pillars 1 and 2) and balancing that with the supply side (pillars 3 and 4).

The priority on low income and lower-middle income countries remains valid. At the same time, we are getting requests for technical assistance from "richer" middle-income countries. These are often small-population countries with nominally high GDP because they have resources such as oil or gas but they are still weak in development terms because of institutional and human resource constraints. Accordingly, they may be labelled "low resource" countries and also deserve help along with a greater expectation that they should be willing to pay for most of their NCD services themselves. Some 90-100 countries satisfy the criteria of low resource countries including LMICs

This core strategy provides the framework for the 2019-20 biennial workplan (EC Doc 5/2019) and budget (EC Doc 6/2019). It will continue to evolve with experience. Progress will be measured through a results-based monitoring framework that is under formulation and that will be put to the EC over coming weeks. An evaluation is planned towards the end of 2020.