

5th APCAT- The Asia Pacific Summit of Mayors

17 December 2020

Declaration

We, the delegates of the 5th APCAT- The Asia Pacific Summit of Mayors, recognize how the COVID-19 pandemic has not only thrust a global public health emergency but also triggered cascading humanitarian crises. Evidence has emerged that those most at risk of dying or becoming extremely ill from COVID-19 are those with pre-existing non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Tobacco is a leading common risk factor for major NCDs that account for over 70% of untimely deaths globally, and it also increases the risk of communicable diseases (CDs) like world's biggest killer infectious disease, TB. We also recognize the catastrophic health, economic, environment and social consequences of tobacco use, NCDs and CDs, which is threatening to derail progress on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Sustainable development where health and social security are central. Sustainable development where health and social security are central.

We recognize that APCAT is a vital platform to share experiences, shape local actions, and secure greater leadership for tobacco control, prevention of NCDs and elimination of TB while responding to COVID-19.

Therefore, we commit to accelerate progress towards eventually ending tobacco, as well as preventing the avoidable burden of COVID-19, NCDs and CDs and thereby avert untimely deaths, by:

1. Sustaining effective implementation of tobacco control programs that include smokefree environments; complete ban of tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship; promotion of larger graphic health warning on tobacco packs and smoking cessation programs; and ban electronic cigarettes, heated tobacco products, shisha and similar products,
2. Ensuring NCDs prevention and treatment services are sustained with inclusion of NCDs in COVID-19 responses as part of health security, acknowledging the links between COVID-19 complications and underlying chronic conditions,
3. Continuing delivery of routine care, supplies of essential medicines and technologies, screening and diagnosis, access to resources, and supportive services for ongoing management of tuberculosis and other lung diseases,
4. Rejecting funding, logistics, donations or grants from, and partnerships with, any entity related to any unhealthy commodity industries (*such as tobacco, alcohol, sugary and sweetened beverages*) and pseudo-science funded by these industries and their front groups,
5. Working with national government and policy makers to raise taxes and prices on unhealthy commodities, tobacco products, alcohol, sugary and sweetened beverages,
6. Adhering to public health and scientific expertise for prevention and management of COVID-19 effectively, and by rebuilding our cities in a way that improves public health system.

We commit for doing everything in our power and the power of our city governments to ensure that COVID-19, tobacco control, NCDs prevention and TB control programs are effectively implemented and measured, and the recovery from COVID-19 is healthy, equitable and sustainable.