



**ESMO Statement  
for the  
156<sup>th</sup> WHO Executive Board Meeting  
3 February – 11 February 2025**

**Agenda item 7: Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases**

Honorable Chair, Esteemed Delegates,

With 1 in 5 people developing cancer during their life time<sup>1</sup>, [the European Society for Medical Oncology](#) urges Member States to prioritise cancer prevention and control and optimization of the cancer workforce during the Fourth UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs, and to deliver a Political Declaration that fully addresses the needs of patients with cancer. This includes guaranteeing the provision, to their entire populations, of health benefit packages that:

- Consist of a core set of comprehensive, safe, affordable, effective, and high-quality services for cancer prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment according to guidelines, rehabilitation, and supportive and palliative care,
- address quality of life, side-effects, and all aspects of toxicity,
- are sufficiently funded, and
- are delivered by an adequate number of well-trained and well-resourced healthcare professionals.

We take this opportunity to reiterate that Universal Health Coverage (UHC) cannot be achieved without robust cancer prevention and control measures.

Thank you.

---

<sup>1</sup> International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), Global cancer burden growing, amidst mounting need for services. <https://www.who.int/news/item/01-02-2024-global-cancer-burden-growing-amidst-mounting-need-for-services#:~:text=In%202022%2C%20there%20were%20an.women%20die%20from%20the%20disease>