

STATEMENT

The European Renal Association (ERA) welcomes the adoption of the UN Political Declaration on NCDs and urges the EU institutions to adopt comprehensive measures to tackle the growing burden of kidney diseases

The European Renal Association (ERA) welcomes the adoption of the United Nations Political Declaration on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and the promotion of mental health and well-being, which for the first time recognises kidney disease as one of the most burdensome NCDs and its strong links with diabetes. Alongside the landmark World Health Organization (WHO) resolution on kidney health adopted at the 78th World Health Assembly earlier this year, this milestone demonstrates the strong commitment of international organisations and UN Member States to prioritising action against the growing global burden of kidney disease. **In light of these important international developments, ERA urges the institutions of the European Union to translate these global commitments into concrete action** by adopting comprehensive measures that will support Member States in maintaining kidney health by preventing, detecting, and treating kidney disease more effectively.

As acknowledged by the UN and the WHO, chronic kidney disease (CKD) is one of the most prevalent and burdensome NCDs. Today, CKD affects around 850 million people worldwide — a figure that underlines the scale of the challenge. In Europe alone, an estimated 10–12% of citizens (around 100 million people) live with kidney damage, too often undiagnosed until advanced stages. This late detection leads to preventable deaths and places a heavy economic and social burden on already overstretched health systems. Even more alarming, **CKD is among the fastest-growing causes of death globally and, without decisive action, is projected to become the third leading cause of death in Western Europe and the fifth worldwide by 2050.**

By including kidney health in the UN Political Declaration, Member States have sent a clear signal that prevention, early detection, and equitable access to treatment must become core components of national and international health strategies.

It is now time for policymakers at national and regional levels (including EU decision makers) to turn words into action. The commitments set out in the UN Political Declaration and the WHO resolution must be translated into tangible policies and programmes that deliver real change for people living with, or at risk of, kidney disease.

The ERA, both independently and as member of the European Kidney Health Alliance (EKHA) stands ready to collaborate with the European Union, Member States, and other stakeholders to support the implementation of these recommendations. The ERA remains firmly committed to advancing kidney health through research, education, awareness raising, and partnership,

ensuring that kidney disease is no longer neglected but fully recognised as a central priority in the European and global response to NCDs.

For more information on ERA's approach to CKD prevention in line with the WHO resolution, see the article "[ERA's ABCDE Framework for Kidney Disease Prevention: Turning the WHO Kidney Health Resolution into action](#)"

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