
PARLIAMENTARY DECLARATION- GLOBAL CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASES (CRDs)

Caucus

We, Members of Parliament from across the world, recognise that chronic respiratory diseases (CRDs) affect more than half a billion people globally and are a leading cause of premature death and disability. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases (COPD), the most significant contributor to CRD mortality, affects more than 200 million people and causes more than 3 million deaths each year, while asthma affects more than 360 million people and causes more than 400,000 deaths annually.

We recognise that millions continue to suffer or die prematurely from preventable and treatable respiratory diseases, driven by exposure to tobacco, air pollution, environmental and occupational risks, and the impact of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and pneumonia.

We note with concern that delayed diagnosis, inadequate access to quality diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and other respiratory care including equitable access to new tools continue to undermine efforts to prevent, manage, and reduce the burden of respiratory diseases.

We acknowledge that that as Members of Parliament, we have a unique responsibility and power to change this by demanding greater political prioritization, enacting legislation, approving budgets, overseeing implementation and champion policies that improve the lives of the people we serve;

We therefore commit to:

- Champion chronic respiratory diseases as a national and global health priority.
- Promote policies that prevent respiratory diseases and address major risk factors, including tobacco use, air pollution, and occupational exposures.
- Advocate for equitable access to quality prevention, early diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and essential respiratory medicines and technologies, including through strengthened and integrated lung health services at the primary care level.

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- Support sustainable domestic investment to strengthen health systems and primary health care, including prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and long-term care.
 - Strengthen parliamentary oversight of national respiratory health policies and programmes.
 - Promote research, innovation, and equitable access to new technologies for all populations.
 - Advocate for integrated approaches to respiratory health that strengthen prevention, early diagnosis and long-term management across communicable and non-communicable respiratory diseases.
 - Ensure meaningful engagement of patients, scientists, healthcare professionals, private sector and civil society in awareness creation, policymaking and accountability.
 - Foster international parliamentary collaboration through the Global Health Caucus and Global CRDs Caucus to accelerate progress on chronic respiratory diseases.
 - Promote whole-of-government approaches involving health, environment, finance, labor, education and social protection sectors.
 - Promote the collection and use of data to strengthen accountability and inform evidence-based policymaking.

By endorsing this Declaration, we commit to working individually and collectively with relevant Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, technical and development partners, professional bodies, research and academic institutions, the private sector, civil society organisations, patient networks and affected communities to advance political leadership, strengthen accountability and mobilise the investments needed to improve respiratory health for present and future generations.

Signed:

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Country:

Email:

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Signature: