

## OneNeurology position statement re: EB150/1, agenda item 7: (g) Draft intersectoral global action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders (GAP) in support of UHC.

**Neurological disorders** such as stroke, migraine, Alzheimer's and other dementias and meningitis, are the leading cause of disability adjusted life years (DALYs) and the second leading cause of death globally, accounting for 9 million deaths per year.

The OneNeurology Partnership is a multi-stakeholder group bringing together international neurological organisations and regional umbrellas. We advocate to make neurological disorders and brain health a global public health priority and to build and implement an integrated response for neurology across all levels.

The Partnership unanimously welcomes and strongly endorses the WHO draft GAP, including its indicators and targets. We believe that the Plan provides an ambitious, comprehensive, and multisectoral response to address neurological disorders and promote brain health.

**We call on the WHO Executive Board members to support the development and adoption of an ambitious GAP. Investing in this holistic model can bring measurable health and economic gains to MS:**

- Decrease the incidence of neurological disorders
- Improve survival rates
- Reduce complications and disability
- Lower treatment costs
- And– ultimately – ensure a better quality of life for those affected

**We underline the critical importance of the following elements included in the GAP:**

- Central role of national action plans, taking a bundle approach to neurological disorders by addressing their common challenges and solutions
- Vital need to integrate neurology and brain health into existing global health frameworks such as NCDs and SDGs
- Emphasis on developing a core set of intermediate indicators and targets in line with GAP, other GAPs, WHO monitoring frameworks and national circumstances, to monitor outcomes
- Attention to improve strategic and coordinated research & innovation in neuroscience

**We underscore the following additional points that will be relevant to the GAP implementation:**

- Building an integrated response for neurology, strengthening primary care, community care and hospital care settings, bridging the care levels as well as interlinking to other sectors such as social care, education and employments sectors
- Urgency to develop compelling investment cases in order to assist with securing adequate budgets at all levels to successfully implement the GAP
- Usefulness of adopting an entry point approach depending on the epidemiological profile of each country (e.g. epilepsy or stroke)
- Importance of strengthening the role of WHO Regional Offices who can be instrumental in boosting the implementation of the Plan in their respective regions.

Underlying all the above points is a necessity to have a plan that **puts people at its centre**, is orientated on ensuring **better outcomes** in their daily lives, and **meaningfully engages patients' communities** across all levels of its implementation.

The **OneNeurology Partnership is offering support to Member States** - through its network and expertise - in a lead up to the GAP adoption and throughout its implementation phase.

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