

AGENDA ITEM #7: Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases

Grouping 2 (7b, c, e, i)

Canada commends the WHO for its continued work on strengthening global responses to diabetes. We remain committed to strong action to address diabetes and were pleased to co-host the Global Diabetes Summit with WHO last year. We recognize that the intent of proposing aspirational and voluntary targets is to provide a goalpost and help move the world forward, however we note the importance of limiting reporting burden and ensuring that proposed targets are measurable and comparable as they are considered and implemented in line with national contexts.

Canada welcomes the draft global strategy on oral health and supports its Guiding Principles and Strategic Objectives. We would like to underscore the high prevalence of oral diseases that disproportionately affect communities facing structural inequities. There is more work to do, and Canada looks forward to working with the WHO and other Member States and partners in the development of a global oral health action plan. We are pleased to note that Canada will be launching the next cycle of a comprehensive national clinical oral health survey this summer, in line with WHO guidance.

On cervical cancer, we welcome the report noting the progress made in implementing cervical cancer interventions in all WHO regions. We continue to recognize that publicly funded vaccination programs for girls and boys are important population health approaches to reduce negative health effects of HPV, particularly in minimizing the socio-cultural barriers including misperceptions surrounding HPV vaccines.

Lastly, Canada also welcomes the draft recommendations on the prevention and management of obesity. We encourage the WHO and Member States to consider additional approaches, including non-regulatory measures, as appropriate for each national context to effectively address this issue.