



INTERVENTION REMARKS

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AT

**THE 150TH SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION'S
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
24 – 29 JANUARY 2022**

Title: Political Statement on the Prevention and Control of NCDs

Thank you Chair,

1. Malaysia would like to support the report on the political declaration on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. Although it is unusual to place so many agenda subitems under one item, especially when NCDs contribute to the biggest burden of disease globally, we acknowledge the time allocated to discuss this important matter.
2. Malaysia welcomes the Implementation Road Map as this will provide important guidance on our respective programmes in achieving NCD-related goals. Malaysia will most certainly align our National Strategic Plans for NCDs and our upcoming White Paper on the Future of Healthcare with WHO's Implementation Road Map.
3. One of the key lessons learnt in managing the COVID pandemic is the effectiveness of a whole-of-nation approach. Similarly in preventing and controlling NCDs, we need a similar all-encompassing approach at the national and subnational levels, with multistakeholder collaboration involving government, civil society, the private sector and local communities.

4. Malaysia recently launched a National Health Agenda (*Agenda Nasional Malaysia Sihat*). This goes beyond the usual health promotional programme. We want it to result in a **Health in All Policies approach** where each stakeholder puts health front and centre. This will encourage different ministries to think about their contributions to the national health agenda. How can the built environment and town planning lead to better health outcomes? How do agricultural policies improve the affordability of healthy foods? How do we talk about and act upon social determinants of health outcomes? A Health in All Policies approach is essential in better outcomes to prevent and control NCDs.
5. Malaysia also agrees with WHO's focus on engagement with all sectors of society. After two years of being told what to do, populations will need constructive engagement and community empowerment to support a nation-wide agenda to prevent and control NCDs.
6. Digital tools must also be used to enhance primary health care in screening for and treating NCDs. Malaysia, like many other countries, has developed a digital application that we use extensively. Because of its ubiquitousness, we have an unintended consequence of a population-wide enrolment on a digital platform. We are thinking about ways to repurpose this powerful digital platform to offer health services for NCDs and mental health especially at the primary healthcare level.
7. As a matter of record, Malaysia supports the recommendations to strengthen diabetes prevention and control, to prevent and manage obesity over the life course, the Draft Global Strategy on Oral Health, the resolution to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer, agrees to the Inter-sectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders and we welcome the progress achieved in the promotion of mental health. Malaysia will align our national plans accordingly.

8. We also call on mental health to be a standalone item in future agenda. Mental health deserves greater focused attention in WHO's work especially after the pandemic.

9. Finally, Malaysia would like to highlight the negative impact of tobacco on NCDs, which is well known. We, like some other WPRO countries, hope to pass a legislation this year which will bring about a generation end game to smoking by making it illegal for the sale of tobacco and other smoking products to anyone born after 2005. Malaysia feels this will have a significant impact in preventing and controlling NCDs.

Thank you.

***Delivered in Geneva on 26 January 2022**