



ITEM 6. Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and mental health

- **Draft updated menu of policy options and cost-effective interventions for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases**

Belgium aligns itself with the statement delivered by Denmark on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

Belgium welcomes the report submitted by the Director General.

Yet, we are very much concerned that no country is on track to achieve the 9 voluntary targets by 2025 by the insufficient attention on NCDs at national and global level, despite the tremendous global burden of NCDs.

We all need WHO's continued support to accelerate the implementation of public health policies, including the use of regulatory and fiscal measures, to promote health and prevent NCDs.

The 'best buys' recommended by WHO, such as front-of-pack labelling or restriction of marketing for unhealthy products, are critical to tackle the main risk factors.

Addressing the determinants of health requires cross-sectoral collaboration. In this regard, we commend WHO leadership for the promotion of a "health and environment in all policies" approach to address the devastating impact of environmental pollution and climate change on human health.

Considering that mental health is now a clear priority for us all, we would like to suggest also to further develop 'best buys' related to mental health, for instance through preventive policies at the workplace.

Finally, as expressed by the Nordic and Baltic countries, while we fully support the draft decision proposed by the Secretariat, we consider that, in the future, the regular update of the 'best buys', could be done by the Secretariat only, based on the latest evidence.