Thank you Mr. President,

1. The Region of the Americas reiterates its strong and enduring commitment to the prevention and control of NCDs, the increase of which has reached epidemic levels. NCDs account for three quarters of all deaths in the region and have important consequences for our development due to the human and economic burden they entail.

2. We recognize the need for concerted and heightened implementation of Member States commitments on NCDs, with particular emphasis on meeting SDG target 3.4 by 2030. We believe the UNGA Third high-level meeting on NCDs to be held next 27th September, will be a unique opportunity to reaffirm political will and accelerate transformative action that will contribute to the achievement of our commitments adopted since the 2011 Political Declaration, which remain relevant to the efforts we still need to make today. We invite all Member States to be represented at the highest political level to renew and reinforce our common commitments and the work towards their implementation. We recognize the WHO Global Conference on NCDs that took place in Uruguay last October, and its outcome, the Montevideo Roadmap on NCDs for Sustainable Development, which reflects the discussion at the time, as well as the work of the WHO High level Independent Commission on NCDs, as contributions to the process leading to the High-level meeting on NCDs.

3. All countries face challenges associated with preventing and controlling NCDs and their main risk factors but thankfully there have been some successes in this area. To effectively address NCDs and promote mental health, as well as the social, economic and environmental determinants of health that have a bearing on NCDs, a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach should frame actions at the national level. Strong political will, national and international investments, cooperation and action across sectors, as well as responsible engagement and multi-sector partnerships between all stakeholders are necessary to achieve health objectives.

4. WHO should strengthen its fundamental role in supporting Member States to develop and implement national NCD responses and build adequate capacities, based on scientific evidence and best practices that will help them reduce premature mortality by one-third by 2030. WHO should also scale up the coordination of activities with other relevant stakeholders, including through platforms such as the Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs (GCM) and the UN Interagency Task Force on NCDs to help Member States towards the NCD SDG goals. We support dedicating the necessary human and financial resources in order to fulfill these tasks and effectively contribute to advancing Member States progress on tackling these preventable diseases.

I thank you