

Country: Belize

Item: 13.2 Political Declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and mental health.

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are the leading causes of death and disability globally, killing more than three in five people worldwide and responsible for more than half of the global burden of disease.

These health problems are causing and perpetuating poverty while hindering economic development in low- and middle-income countries. If they continue their upward trend, NCDs are estimated to cause a cumulative loss of output of \$47 trillion between 2011 and 2030.

Let us join forces with the United Nations, let's get the necessary support and let us get involved in south-south cooperation so as to ensure that our efforts as a subregion are efficient. **The burden is already too heavy to bear.** This evil has moved from the lower income families to the middle income and is ravaging and leading to poverty.

As governments, let us share agendas with our UN partners as a follow up to the last high-level meeting on NCDs in 2018. If NCDs are our number one killer, then addressing the determinants should be our number one target. I urge you all to commit our leadership and resources to overcome obstacles related to the social, environmental, and community determinants of health – including poverty.