

**Statement by the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) at the
76th World Health Assembly, 21-30 May, 2023**

Agenda 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

Thank you, Chair.

IDLO welcomes the report by the Director General on progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. With no country on track to meet the voluntary NCD targets set for 2025, effective and coordinated action is needed now more than ever. The report reminds us that the NCD targets are achievable. It is time to capitalize on the efforts made to date to attain results.

IDLO wishes to highlight the importance of the law to prevent and control NCDs. Through cost-effective legal, policy, and fiscal measures, countries can accelerate progress towards meeting the NCD targets. An enabling environment is key to ensure that these measures can be developed, adopted and implemented to deliver sustainable results. Since 2019, IDLO has been working with WHO and other partners to build national legal and regulatory capacities to prevent NCDs. To date, we have provided support to Bangladesh, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Uganda creating a legal and policy environment that enables governments to undertake the necessary interventions to prevent NCDs. We would like to share with you key lessons we learned through this experience, namely there is a need to:

1. Support multistakeholder collaboration among policy makers, regulators, lawyers, civil society organizations, academics and communities to identify shared and sustainable interventions that respond to the country specific context and needs;
2. Engage civil society to create momentum for policy reforms and educate communities to understand and support the proposed interventions;
3. Strengthen collaboration in academia between legal and public health departments to facilitate inter-disciplinary understanding and teaching of legal approaches to prevent NCDs.

IDLO, in collaboration with WHO, will continue supporting countries in applying rule of law-based solutions to win the fight against NCDs.

Thank you.