



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA

**Statement by Fiji at the WHO Executive Board 152nd Session on Pillar 1 : Pillar
1: One billion more people benefitting from Universal Health Coverage :**

**Item No.6: Political Declaration on the 3rd High Level Meeting of the UNGA on
NCDs and Mental Health**

Wednesday 1 February 2023

Madam Chair,

NCDs remain a top health priority for Fiji as in the case of many small island developing states and we appreciate WHO's continued emphasis in addressing this issue and which has been exacerbated by the pandemic and other peculiar health and environmental issues faced by SIDS.

We noted with interest Appendix 3 of the NCD Action Plan contained in document EB152/6 and perhaps what is missing in the guidance are the measures that affect the taxation, marketing and availability of alcohol which could be addressed through a footnote on page 17 to read 'interventions relating to excise taxes, marketing and availability of alcohol should take into account the beverage type in addition to alcohol strength.'

With renewed focus on NCDs, the SIDs Ministerial meeting in June on NCDs and mental health to be hosted by Barbados is critical for us in the lead up to the GA and should leverage SIDS voice in addressing this issue holistically.

I thank you. (162 words)

END