



Statement by Finland
WHO EB156
Agenda item 7 NCDs

Thank you Chair,

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

Finland has a long and successful history on prevention of NCD's. Recently, the "Wellbeing Economy" approach has emphasized a balanced approach between social, health, economic and environmental aspects.

An essential part of the NCD agenda are the measures promoting mental health and the recognition of good mental health in increasing the social, human, and economic capital of societies. We are grateful to Chile and the Dominican Republic for taking forward a decision on a dedicated report on mental health for WHO's governing bodies. We are happy to co-sponsor this important decision.

A known measure for the prevention of NCD's is taxation of products with a negative public health impact. Traditional examples include tobacco and alcohol, and sugar-sweetened beverages. When applied on nutrition, the taxation can impact both the demand and supply side of the products. Furthermore, health-related taxes can be an effective means to reduce health inequalities. Taxation can be considered as a win-win policy for improving health of a population and for generating revenue for the State.

Thank you.