



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

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Agenda 7: Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

- ***Reducing the burden of noncommunicable diseases through strengthening prevention and control of diabetes***
- ***Oral health***
- ***Comprehensive mental health action plan 2013–2030***
- ***Global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem and its associated goals and targets for the period 2020–2030***

Thank you, Chair.

Maldives appreciate the Director-General's report and acknowledge WHO's efforts in supporting Member States to advance commitments from the Third High-Level Meeting on NCDs, particularly in the areas of diabetes, oral health, cervical cancer elimination, and mental health.

Maldives has made notable progress in addressing NCDs, driven by strong government commitment and partnerships. Diabetes prevention and control are integrated into our primary healthcare (PHC) system, with universal coverage for screening and essential medicines under the national health insurance scheme. Through these initiatives, we are on track to meet global and regional diabetes targets well ahead of 2030.

In oral health, screening and treatment are available at the PHC level, with essential services covered under health insurance.

The Maldives is also advancing efforts to eliminate cervical cancer. The HPV vaccine is included in our national immunization program with high coverage through school-based interventions. Additionally, we are introducing HPV DNA testing to strengthen early detection. Cervical cancer screening is integrated into PHC services to ensure accessibility.

Recognizing the link between tobacco use and NCDs, we have implemented strong tobacco control measures, including a ban on e-cigarettes, the highest-ever increase in tobacco taxation, and the earmarking of tobacco tax revenue for health promotion.



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Despite these advancements, the rising NCD burden remains a challenge.

As we prepare for the Fourth High-Level Meeting on NCDs, we encourage the WHO Secretariat to:

1. Strengthen technical support for expanding community-based mental health services and ensuring access for underserved populations.
2. Provide guidance on the HPV single-dose vaccination strategy and scale-up of HPV DNA-based screening.
3. Facilitate discussions on integrating essential NCD services into national health benefit packages.
 - Promote the exchange of best practices to support national and regional NCD control efforts.

We remain fully committed to working with the member States to accelerate progress on NCD prevention and control, ensuring that we meet both Global NCD targets and SDG health targets.

Thank you.