

**EB158**

**February 2-7, 2026**

**Lebanon Statement on Item 6: Follow-up to the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases**

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Esteemed Chair, distinguished delegates,

Lebanon aligns itself with the statement delivered by Saudi Arabia on behalf of the EM region and thank the Director General's report on that topic.

NCD account for 55% of total deaths in Lebanon, and 37% of NCD deaths are premature. The NCD risk factors present scary figures. Only 1.4% of the population doesn't have any NCD risk factor. 52.1% are current smokers, fruit and vegetable consumption remains critically low, salt intake is almost double the WHO recommended levels, 32% of the adult population is obese, 34% have hypertension and 36% of adults are physically inactive.

We are aware that intensive work on curbing risk factors should be strengthened. Not only awareness campaigns on the importance of healthy diets, and physical activity, but also the early detection of cancer and the amendment of the tobacco control law are a must. The inclusion of new products such as e-cigarettes and heated tobacco is believed to have strong effects on smoking prevalence especially among the youth.

Yet, we believe that innovative efforts are still needed to accelerate the work towards 2030. We call for integrating Artificial Intelligence into NCD prevention and early detection such as predictive analytics for early detection using certain biomarkers and individualized risk scores, as well as smart food scanners to help make healthier choices.

We welcome the political declaration promoting the fast-track efforts to accelerate progress over the next five years, and we support the enclosed decision and the related decisions on fatty liver disease and hemophilia.

Thank you