

**Statement by Myanmar Delegation**  
**73<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly (Resumed Session)**  
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**Agenda 11.2**

**Follow-up to the high-level meetings of the United Nations General Assembly on health-related issues**

- Honourable chair of the Committee A,
- Colleagues from the member countries,
- Colleagues from the WHO,

It is my privilege to deliver this statement on behalf of Myanmar.

The goal of our National Health Plan, 2017-21 is to strengthen the country's primary health care system and pave the way towards Universal Health Care by extending access to a Basic Essential Package of Health Services to the entire population of Myanmar by 2020 while also increasing their financial protection.

We therefore welcome the consultation on the operational framework for Primary Health Care (PHC) undertaken by the WHO. As we prepare our next National Health Plan, we will be informed by this operational framework.

We recognise the challenge in transitioning our primary health care workforce towards the integrated health service delivery, especially for their early detection, prevention and control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). We will invest in digital technologies to help us overcome these challenges and to improve access to care, service delivery and promote accountability of service providers.

As the draft operational framework for PHC is finalised, we urge WHO to increase its focus on helping member states to increase their availability, accessibility and affordability of essential medicines at the PHC level. With the increased screening and early detection of NCDs, it is becoming difficult to pay sustainably for these medicines and reduce their chronic

burden on the health expenditure. We should extend the pooled regional / global procurements models developed for the communicable diseases also to NCDs.

If we do not take immediate actions to prevent and control NCDs now in Myanmar, a major chunk of the country's health budget will be consumed by NCDs in the next five to ten years. Therefore, with help from The Defeat-NCD Partnership at UNITAR, we have launched a new costed operational plan, and pooled financing mechanism, for the prevention and control of NCDs during 2021-22, requiring US\$ 101 million, and targeting the reduction in catastrophic health expenditure at household levels by NCDs.

This Plan is committed to finding US\$ 76 million from domestic revenue and it is seeking US\$ 25 million in catalytic international aid. Successful delivery of the Plan will mean two million vulnerable people will benefit from prevention and treatment of NCDs free of charge, and it will more widely impact 11 million people. It will also reduce out-of-pocket expenditure for the most vulnerable from 82 percent to 63 percent.

Recognizing EB 146 (14) decisions for accelerating actions to reduce the harmful use of alcohol, our new Plan aims to reach 5 million people annually by implementing a full range of actions to reduce availability of retailed alcohol, enforce restrictions on promotion of alcohol products and raising taxes on alcoholic beverages to reduce their consumption.

Similarly in pursuance of decision WHA 72(11) and EB146/7, the Plan also prioritises interventions to improve mental health and well-being of half a million people over the next two years.

Thank you.

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