Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases

Wednesday 29 May

Honorable Chair, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests,

I have the honor to present the State of Kuwait’s national statement on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases.

The State of Kuwait thanks the Director General for his report under agenda item 11.2

Kuwait's approach to combating non-communicable diseases (NCDs) aligns closely with global health objectives, emphasizing the reduction of their prevalence and impact to enhance public health and economic stability. In 2019, NCDs, including cardiovascular diseases, cancers, and diabetes, were responsible for 65% of all deaths in Kuwait, significantly affecting health outcomes and imposing a major economic burden.
To address this, Kuwait has prioritized the Sustainable Development Goal 3, which focuses on reducing premature mortality from NCDs. As part of its 2020-2025 development plan, Kuwait launched the NCD Prevention Project and established the Non-Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Directorate, alongside a high-level committee involving various governmental and non-governmental sectors.

The national strategy emphasizes early detection, prevention, and management of NCDs through multi-sectoral collaboration. Key initiatives include anti-smoking campaigns, nutritional programs, and promoting physical activity. Specialized clinics and patient education programs have been established to manage and treat NCDs, supported by strong policy frameworks that ensure resource allocation. Despite progress, challenges remain in ensuring equitable healthcare access and integrating NCD care with primary health services. Enhancing surveillance systems is crucial for monitoring disease trends and guiding policy decisions. Moving forward, Kuwait plans to refine its NCD strategy by leveraging advanced technologies like telemedicine and expanding international research collaborations.
In the short term, Kuwait is focusing on enhancing public awareness and screening programs for early NCD detection. Long-term strategies include strengthening healthcare infrastructure and the workforce and integrating health services nationwide. These efforts aim to improve health outcomes through effective policies, innovative solutions, and community involvement, with the goal of reducing premature NCD mortality by one-third by 2030 in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you, Chair.