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Statement

Committee A

Agenda Item 12 The role of the global coordination mechanism on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases in WHO's work on multistakeholder engagement for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases: report on independent evaluation

And

Agenda Item 13.1 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, 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,

Armenia is committed to reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in line with the WHO's Global Action Plan for the prevention and control of NCDs and Armenia continues developing and implementing comprehensive, evidence-based strategies to reduce the NCD burden and improve public health outcomes.

In recent years, Armenia has made a progress in strengthening the healthcare system and advancing national response to NCDs. Key achievements include the reduction in premature mortality through the implementation of expanded early detection and treatment programs.

Two investment cases have been developed with support of WHO —for tobacco control and NCD prevention- to support the economic rationale for preventive interventions and to guide future health policy decisions. Variety of measures have been initiated to reduce the consumption of salt, tobacco and other nicotine containing products, along with public awareness campaigns and initiatives to regulate the composition of food products.

The screening programs for diabetes, cancers, hypertension and etc. play a key role in Armenia's NCD prevention strategy and will continue to expand. They contribute to preventing

complications, reducing premature deaths, and supporting a shift toward proactive health management.

The comprehensive interventions toward cervical cancer elimination serve as a reflection of the country's priorities and actions. Armenia highly recognizes the importance of global efforts to combat cervical cancer and echoes to the international recommendations through implementation of comprehensive prevention strategies in alignment with the WHO call to eliminate cervical cancer as also stressed by the resolution.

As the cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women in Armenia, we have been committed to curbing its disturbing prevalence and mortality, through a national screening program and HPV vaccinations since 2015 and 2017, respectively.

The HPV vaccination in its initial years however faced resistance due to widespread myths and misinformation, resulting in a plateau of national coverage at just 13%. Through persistent awareness-raising activities and targeted interventions, vaccination rates in Armenia have been on a rise, with a three-fold increase in less than three years. Additionally, in 2025, with the alignment of vaccination strategy to the one-dose scheme as advised by the WHO position paper, Armenia will embark on the vaccine uptake scale-up.

As a cornerstone for NCD prevention, the healthcare system infrastructure is also in the process of modernization with upgraded medical facilities and diagnostic equipment, as well as new requirements for medical personnel, particularly at the primary healthcare level.

To conclude, Armenia remains committed to strengthening these initiatives to ensure that all have access to life-saving prevention methods and will continue to implement policies and interventions in accordance with WHO recommendations and best practices to achieve better health outcomes for all.

I thank you.