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WHA 78 session

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**

Thank you Madame Chair,

Armenia is committed to reducing the burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs)—including cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory conditions—through a people-centered, preventive, and equitable approach that aligns with global strategies such as the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs. This approach is not only central to improving population health but also fundamental to the successful introduction of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), which the Armenian government is actively working on to implement. Addressing NCDs through integrated, accessible and high-quality health services is a critical step toward achieving health equity for all.

In alignment with the World Health Organization's Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013–2030, Armenia continues developing and implementing comprehensive, evidence-based strategies to reduce the NCD burden and improve public health outcomes.

In recent years, Armenia has initiated and is actively advancing efforts to strengthen its healthcare system and enhance its national response to noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). These efforts aim at achieving sustained reductions in premature mortality through the expansion of early detection and treatment programs, alongside targeted preventive measures for cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and chronic respiratory conditions. As part of this ongoing commitment, the country has begun modernizing its healthcare infrastructure by upgrading medical facilities and diagnostic equipment, particularly, at the primary healthcare level.

Screening has been initiated as a cornerstone of Armenia's NCD prevention strategy and is aimed at playing a transformative role in the country's health system. By focusing on the early identification of risk factors and the timely diagnosis of conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, and certain cancers, these efforts are aimed at improving treatment outcomes and reducing long-term healthcare costs. Regular screening initiatives—especially at the primary care level—are being scaled up to ensure early intervention for at-risk populations. These ongoing actions contribute to preventing complications, reducing premature deaths, and supporting a shift toward proactive, long-term health management.

Two investment cases—tobacco control (2019) and NCD prevention (2022)—have been developed to economically justify preventive interventions and guide future health policy decisions. Measures to reduce salt, tobacco, and alcohol consumption have been implemented, alongside public awareness campaigns and initiatives to regulate the composition of food products. Intersectoral collaboration among the health, education, agriculture, and finance sectors has been strengthened, and partnerships with international organizations, including the WHO, have expanded. Armenia's efforts have also received international recognition, including an award from the United Nations Interagency Task Force for contributions to NCD prevention and control.

Armenia remains steadfast in its commitment to combating NCDs and will continue to implement policies and interventions in line with WHO recommendations and international best practices, including the continued expansion and promotion of NCD screening programs to achieve better health outcomes for all.

Thank you