



**Statement by the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) at the
78th World Health Assembly, 19-27 May, 2025
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**

Thank you Chair.

The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) welcomes the continued prioritization of the global response to noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and reaffirms its commitment to advancing the rule of law as a critical tool for NCD prevention and control.

NCDs remain a leading cause of premature mortality and disability worldwide. Legal and policy frameworks are essential to reduce key risk factors, including unhealthy diets and physical inactivity. Developing and implementing effective laws, policies and fiscal measures that support healthier food environments and active lifestyles requires sound legal capacities and cooperation among a wide range of stakeholders. This includes engagement from both health and non-health government sectors, as well as civil society, which plays a key role in building support, engaging communities and ensuring policies are transparent, effective, and people-centred. Policies must be evidence-based and supported and informed by research.

IDLO, in collaboration with WHO, partners with governments, civil society, and academia to strengthen national legal and policy frameworks to create healthier food environments and accelerate progress on NCD prevention and control.

As countries prepare for the 4th High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on NCDs, IDLO encourages Member States to invest in legal and regulatory capacities, multisectoral collaboration, and legal empowerment as core components of national NCD strategies.

We stand ready to support Member States in leveraging the law as a transformative tool to accelerate progress on NCD prevention and control.

Thank you.