



Statement of Ireland

78th World Health Assembly

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

23rd May 2025

Thank you Madam Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ireland aligns with the statement delivered by Poland on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

Non-communicable diseases affect everyone and despite our best efforts, we are currently off track to meet our 2030 Sustainable Development target.

Nevertheless, Ireland continues to deliver meaningful progress.

We fully supported the Bangkok Declaration at the first Global Oral Health Meeting in November. We also joined the global oral health coalition and committed to the implementation of our National Oral Health Policy, which adopts a preventive and primary care approach across the life course.

We have made progress on the prevention and control of diabetes, having established a Chronic Disease Management Programme. This ensures that 91% of patients with chronic diseases now have these conditions fully managed at primary care level.

Ireland welcomes the WHO's cross-sectoral approach to the delivery of mental health services, the promotion of young people's mental health and the adoption of a person-centred and life course approach.

We will continue to work towards our shared goals, particularly with respect to the mental health of young people, and digital mental health.

We are committed to the WHO Global Strategy for eradicating cervical cancer, making significant progress in HPV vaccination, cervical screening and early treatment targets. Equity lies at the core of our vision, and we are dedicated to promoting inclusivity across all communities to eradicate cervical cancer in all societies.

Improving life expectancy is one of humanity's greatest achievements, but it has brought with it many new challenges for our health systems, including greater burdens of non-communicable diseases.

Re-orientating our health systems to meet these challenges requires a shift in mind-set and organization, to build up person-centred and integrated care to deliver "Health for All".

We must recommit to this goal at UNGA later this year where, we hope, we can agree a landmark political declaration, based on scientific evidence and grounded in human rights.

Thank you