

Statement by Malta under Item 12 Pillar 1

Chair, distinguished delegates,

Non-communicable diseases, or NCDs, remain a leading global health challenge—impacting lives and straining healthcare systems.

Our focus should be extended beyond premature mortality to also address conditions long-term morbidity and disability.

With prevention and a multi-sectoral, life-course approach as the cornerstone of Malta's approach to tackling NCDs, we remain committed to this shared responsibility to reverse this trend.

With WHO's support, we launched a 10-year NCD Prevention Framework for public consultation. This will guide targeted strategies on physical activity, nutrition, oral health, obesity care, and tobacco control.

We also emphasize the urgent need to restrict access to smoke-free nicotine products among youth and limit harmful flavourings.

Mental health is finally receiving the attention it deserves. Malta has introduced mental health first aid training and a National Suicide Prevention Strategy to strengthen our support systems.

Oral diseases, often overlooked, affect billions and are deeply connected to other NCDs. Malta supports the inclusion of oral health in the High-Level Political Declaration to reinforce prevention and universal health coverage.

However, progress depends on improved coordination and resources. We call on WHO to continue facilitating knowledge exchange, multisectoral governance tools, and support for NCD prevention in fiscally constrained settings.

We note the evaluation summary and thank WHO for their ongoing commitment and reaffirm Malta's dedication to working together to reverse the NCD trend and build healthier futures.

Thank you.