

PORTUGAL

STATEMENT

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

78TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

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*Item.79;7_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*

Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

Portugal, like many European countries, is confronting the growing burden of diabetes and other noncommunicable diseases - a challenge that is not only medical, but also societal and economic.

To address this, we believe strategic, cross-sectoral action is essential. First, we must reshape the environments in which people live and make decisions. Healthier food systems, active mobility, and protection from harmful exposures must become the norm. This requires active engagement not just of health ministries, but also education, urban planning, transport, and the private sector.

Second, our health systems must evolve. We must shift from reactive care to proactive, person-centred models, with a strong focus on chronic disease management and prevention. This means integrating new roles like diabetes educators, empowering patients, and ensuring financial sustainability.

Third, equitable access to essential medicines and technologies is a non-negotiable principle. As innovation accelerates, shared mechanisms for evaluating health technologies and controlling costs are critical to reducing inequalities - both across and within countries.

Diabetes is not just a disease; it is a test of our resilience and our commitment to fairness. Together, we must pass this test.

I would also like to briefly highlight Portugal's alignment with the WHO's strategy to eliminate cervical cancer. Through universal HPV vaccination - including boys, since 2020 - and a high-quality, nationally integrated screening programme using HPV testing, we are working to meet the 90–70–90 targets. Investments in digital health systems are enhancing follow-up and coverage monitoring.

These steps reflect Portugal's deep commitment to WHO goals and to promoting health equity.

Thank you.

[260 words]