



78th SESSION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

19 -27 MAY 2025

AGENDA ITEM 12 THE ROLE OF THE GLOBAL COORDINATION MECHANISM IN THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN THE WHO'S WORK

1. South Africa aligns with the African Regional statement and thanks the Director-General for the reports on non-communicable diseases (NCDs).
2. We welcome the mid-term evaluation of the Global Coordination Mechanism (GCM) on NCDs, recognizing its vital role in driving collaborative efforts and uniting diverse stakeholders to advance the WHO's global NCD agenda.
3. We support the GCM's findings and recommendations, particularly as South Africa faces a dual burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases, exacerbated by socio-economic disparities.
4. We call for deepened engagement beyond the health sector and commend tools like the Private Sector Tool for promoting whole-of-society responses. However, stronger regional and country-level support is crucial to translate these tools into tangible impact.
5. Increased investment and funding for NCDs are critical, especially for low- and middle-income countries. This will enable us to scale up proven interventions, adapt global tools to local contexts, and strengthen national capacities.
6. We also emphasize the importance of engaging people living with NCDs and mental health conditions in policy design and implementation; their voices are essential for equitable and inclusive strategies.

7. Regarding the **elimination of cervical cancer**, South Africa is actively implementing HPV vaccination for young girls. We firmly believe cervical cancer can be eliminated, which is why South Africa and Nigeria co-led the resolution to dedicate **November 17th as World Cervical Cancer Day**. We thank countries cosponsoring the resolution and were part of the photoshoot at 08h50, on Monday 19, 2025 demonstrating global collaboration and solidarity to cervical cancer elimination.
8. As we prepare for the Fourth High-Level Meeting in September 2025, we recommend that the WHO collaborate with countries to address health priorities that will advance our shared Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you.