



79th World Health Assembly

Agenda item 12.1 – follow-up to the Political Declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and mental health.

Statement of the International Federation of Red Cross
and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

22 May 2026, Geneva

(Submitted in Writing)

IFRC welcomes the WHA79 discussion under Agenda Item 12, (Document A79/5, A79/INF./6 and EB158/2026/REC/1) on the follow-up to the Political Declaration on noncommunicable diseases and mental health.

Representing 191 National Societies and 17 million volunteers worldwide, we recognize that NCDs and mental health are not only development priorities, but also humanitarian and community priorities affecting millions across all contexts. Too often, people experience disruptions in prevention, screening, treatment, rehabilitation, mental health and psychosocial support, and palliative care, particularly in fragile and crisis-affected settings.

Through our auxiliary role to public authorities, and guided by the IFRC NCD Vision and Framework 2030, we urge Member States to strengthen community-centred and primary health care approaches, integrate NCDs and mental health into preparedness and response systems, and invest in community health workers, and locally led action that sustain continuity, dignity, and access to care.

Thank you.