

79th WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY (WHA)
Geneva, Switzerland
18 -23 May 2026

STATEMENT

**FOLLOW-UP TO THE POLITICAL DECLARATION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL
MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE PREVENTION AND
CONTROL OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

Agenda Item 12.1

Chair,

For Small Island Developing States, such as, Jamaica, NCDs remain one of the greatest threats to sustainable development, economic productivity and health security. Recent events, including Hurricane Melissa, have further exposed the vulnerability of persons living with NCDs and demonstrated the urgent need for resilient health systems capable of maintaining continuity of care during emergencies.

Jamaica has taken action to reduce tobacco use, improve Hypertension and Diabetes control, expand access to mental health services, and strengthen primary healthcare systems.

Jamaica continues, to advance evidence-based policies aligned with the Political Declaration. These include strengthening tobacco control legislation in line with the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, implementation of the National School Nutrition Policy, recent implementation of taxation on sweetened beverages, increased tobacco and alcohol taxes and the establishment of a Cabinet-approved Multisectoral NCDs Committee.

We continue to strengthen NCD screening and clinical management within primary healthcare, while improving access to affordable medicines and essential services through a national health fund and our no user fee public health policy.

Through our Jamaica Moves Initiative, we continue to promote physical activity, healthy eating, screening, mental health awareness in communities, schools and workplaces using a life-course approach and expanded our partnerships to support school mental health literacy and violence prevention.

Jamaica thanks the Director-General for the comprehensive report and reaffirms our commitment to achieving the 2030 global targets on non-communicable diseases and mental health.

Jamaica supports the adoption of the draft decisions.

Thank you