

SAMOA'S REVISED STATEMENT ON ITEM 12 – 79 WHA

Thank you Chair,

Samoa aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Pacific Islands Forum and wishes to highlight the unique realities faced by Pacific Small Island Developing States.

On communicable diseases, Samoa reaffirms its commitment to Immunization Agenda 2030. As a small island nation vulnerable to outbreaks and natural disasters, sustaining high immunization coverage remains essential to protecting our people. We continue to strengthen routine immunization, disease surveillance, laboratory capacity and community trust in vaccines, while calling for equitable access to affordable vaccines and resilient supply chains for remote island countries.

Samoa also supports continued action on neglected tropical diseases and tuberculosis. Although our burden may differ from larger countries, geographic isolation, workforce shortages and limited diagnostic capacity continue to challenge early detection and treatment. We encourage stronger regional collaboration, technical assistance and sustained financing tailored to SIDS contexts.

On NCDs and mental health, Samoa remains deeply concerned by the growing burden of obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and mental health conditions, particularly among young people. NCDs continue to place immense pressure on our health system and national economy. We therefore support whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches that address unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, alcohol harm and the commercial determinants of health.

Mental health must also be treated with equal urgency. Samoa continues efforts to integrate mental health services into primary health care and community-based services, while recognizing the impact of climate change, disasters and social pressures on the wellbeing of our people.

Finally, Samoa strongly supports universal health coverage grounded in equity, resilience and people-centred care. For Pacific SIDS, achieving UHC requires sustained investment in primary health care, health workforce development, digital health innovation and emergency preparedness. We welcome the draft global strategy for integrated emergency, critical and operative care, which is highly relevant for geographically dispersed island populations.

Samoa thanks WHO and partners for their continued support to Pacific Island countries and reiterates the importance of solutions that are flexible, climate-resilient and responsive to the realities of small island developing states.

Fa'afetai tele lava.