

**Trinidad and Tobago Intervention
under Agenda Item 12.1
Follow-up to the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General
Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases
79th World Health Assembly**

Thursday 21st May 2026

Thank you, Chair.

Trinidad and Tobago reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the provision of comprehensive health services and supporting programmes, with particular emphasis on the prevention, treatment, and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

In 2007, the CARICOM Heads of Government Port-of-Spain Declaration on NCDs was signed and the Caribbean led the world in convening the very first conference of Heads of Government on NCDs in 2011, which demonstrates Trinidad and Tobago's leadership on this topic. Trinidad and Tobago recognises the risk factors of NCDs including mental health, and acknowledges that these are largely preventable and require multi-sectoral (all-of-government) actions. Our approach is anchored in a *life course model*, which addresses NCDs and mental health at every stage of development. This integrated approach allows us to accompany individuals from birth through infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and into the later years of life. By embedding prevention, care, and wellness promotion across the lifespan, we aim to secure a healthier and more sustainable future for all citizens.

A central pillar of this model is empowerment – empowering individuals, families, and communities to take charge of their own health through behaviour change and self-management. We believe that this primary health care-oriented strategy will not only improve health outcomes but also contribute to stronger resilience, greater health equity, and more efficient use of resources, which were also emphasized within the Declaration.

Trinidad and Tobago stands in solidarity with other Member States by its commitment to reducing morbidity through the prevention and control of NCDs, and recognises the importance of making mental health support increasingly accessible through expanding community based mental health services to meet the growing needs. This declaration articulates important affirmations, which support Trinidad and Tobago's health priorities.

In highlighting the importance of the Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), Trinidad and Tobago commits to urgent action on the following:

- Fast-tracking efforts to accelerate progress on non-communicable diseases and mental health and well-being over the next five years while ensuring that targets and deliverables are in line with our respective national contexts;
- Strengthening primary healthcare through ensuring a multi-sectoral approach; and
- Endorsing initiatives to reinforce research, strengthen data and public health surveillance to monitor progress.

Thank you, Chair.