



## 79TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

# Committee A 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

### UNFPA Statement

Thank you, Chair,

UNFPA welcomes the historic adoption of the Political Declaration on NCDs and Mental Health as a definitive milestone for multilateral accountability. By establishing quantifiable targets, we finally have a measurable, evidence-based baseline that anchors international commitments in action.

With NCDs now contributing to over a quarter of maternal deaths, we can no longer treat pregnancy and chronic disease as separate issues. This intersection is critical to strengthening health systems and provides a definitive mandate to deliver integrated, person-centered care as we work to fulfill the promises enshrined in this declaration.

To accelerate the reduction of maternal mortality, the **full integration of NCD screening and management within the sexual, reproductive, and maternal health continuum** is essential. Moving toward comprehensive service delivery ensures that every contact with a health provider becomes a vital opportunity to protect a woman's long-term health and wellbeing.

UNFPA stands ready to **support Member States in optimizing their frontline health workforces** to accelerate the global response to NCDs through a primary health care approach. Midwifery models of care are a proven approach for this integration; midwives are capable of delivering the majority of sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health services while simultaneously addressing NCD prevention and management. By empowering midwives to screen for, manage, and refer to NCD-related risks—such as hypertension and gestational diabetes—within their scope of practice, health systems can ensure that life-saving NCD interventions are in an integrated manner.

In the face of evolving global health priorities, we have the opportunity to replace fragmentation with synergy. We urge all partners to move toward formalized, purposeful partnerships that offer people-centred, integrated, comprehensive NCD and sexual reproductive health care. By working together, we can work toward a singular, unified path to health for all.

Thank you.