Austria thanks the WHO for the consolidated report and the progress achieved in the prevention and control of Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) and the promotion of mental health.

We would like to highlight that - for NCD prevention – health literacy is equally important as it is for the continuous management of NCDs.

Healthcare systems and services need to focus on this by patient-centred communication and adequate information material to support proper self-management.

Austria recognizes the importance of diabetes as public health problem.

Especially prevention and control on NCDs urgently need to be addressed by all MS. Efforts on diabetes prevention and control are to be intensified within the frame of the GAP on NCDs.
• Against the background of the COVID 19 crisis, we would especially like to stress the importance of comprehensive prevention measures, including a focus on the socio-economic and commercial determinants, as well as diagnostics and screenings as most relevant tools in advancing the fight against diabetes.

As to

ORAL HEALTH

• Austria aligns itself with the Statement of the European Union and its Member States.

• We welcome the report on oral health (EB148/8) and support the roadmap for achieving better oral health as part of universal health coverage and NCD agendas towards 2030.

• Although oral diseases are preventable, they are still highly prevalent and costly for public health funds and also the patients.

• The burden of disease is significantly unequal distributed, affecting vulnerable groups like elderly people living in care homes and those of lower income.

• Unfortunately, the COVID-19-pandemic has hampered the access to several settings and worsened inequalities.
In this context, Austria supports the efforts of WHO preventing noma, which leads to lifelong disability, affects learning opportunities of children and often results in social exclusion.

Early detected, the progression of this disease can easily be halted by basic hygiene rules. They help to prevent suffering from early age, disability and death.

Improving oral health improves general health and well-being over the life-course, and reduces costs for treatments.

Therefore, Austria supports the resolution and development of a global Strategy by WHO.

Thank you!