<Address Recipient>

<Address Sender>

<21st August 2023>

**United Nations High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage 2023 and High-level engagement during the Global Week for Action on NCDs**

Your Excellency <Name>,

It is my privilege to contact you on behalf of NCD Alliance and <additional organisation names> in relation to the Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) that is set to be adopted at the United Nations High-Level Meeting next month.

By way of introduction, [NCD Alliance (NCDA)](https://ncdalliance.org/) is a global civil society organisation founded in 2009, NCDA unites over 300 members in more than 81 countries. Our mission is to unite, strengthen and stimulate collaborative advocacy, action and accountability for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCD). Even though NCDs account for 74% of deaths globally and the burden is disproportionately severe in low- and middle-income countries, where four out of five people with an NCD live, many countries are lagging on the integration of NCDs into UHC health benefits packages.

We call on <you and your Government/Heads of State and Government> to engage in the United Nations High-Level Meeting on UHC, taking place on 21st September 2023 to take a lead in the progressive realisation of UHC. As we strive to attain UHC, we call for <your Government> to consider the following recommendations from NCD Alliance during your intervention:

* The need to **invest** in the prevention and control of NCDs through sustainable and adequate resources for UHC. NCDA commends the UHC Political Declaration’s reference to transitioning toward sustainable financing, domestic resource mobilization, strengthening international cooperation, and Member States’ recommitment to increasing spending for Primary Healthcare (PHC) by 1% GDP. We urge governments to commit to additional health financing that exceeds the 1 percent increase in GDP spending on health in the text by aligning national spending targets with disease burden and other recommended targets such as 5% of national GDP or the Abuja Declaration's goal of 15% of government expenditure to healthcare.
* **Accelerating** the implementation of quality NCD prevention and care services into UHC health benefit packages. NCDA applauds references to scaling up efforts for health promotion, equitable access to medicines, and strengthening health information systems. We welcome the commitment to strengthen the continuum of care, including health promotion, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care. We call on governments to strengthen legal and regulatory measures to promote intersectoral policies and improve access to essential medicines.
* Significance of **aligning** development and global health priorities to achieve UHC. We highlight the need for resilient health systems based on primary healthcare and a people-centred approach that ensures inclusivity and addresses the vulnerabilities of populations living with multiple chronic conditions, including NCDs.
* The importance of **engaging** people living with NCDs in decision-making processes, aiming to keep UHC people-centered. We recommend institutionalising mechanisms for inclusive health governance that involve patients and individuals living with chronic conditions, while addressing conflicts of interest and undue influence from industries that may harm public health.

NCDA has prepared a series of resources to assist governments to take advantage of the opportunity that the United Nations High-Level Meeting on UHC poses for advancing the NCD prevention and control agenda globally. For more detailed comments to the Political Declaration, please contact Marijke Kremin, NCD Alliance Policy and Advocacy Manager (mkremin@ncdalliance.org).

<Optional Addition: **2023 Global Week for Action on NCDs**>

I also take the opportunity to inform you about the upcoming Global Week for Action on NCDs from 14th to 21st September. The theme this year is bridging the care gap, and we are calling on global leaders to ensure that everyone has access to essential, affordable health services.

We invite <you or a representative of your government>, to become an NCD Champion for the 2023 Global Week for Action on NCDs and join forces with the NCD community to further amplify advocacy and impact. As an NCD Champion you can share a message or record a short video on social media, and speak with the media to amplify the campaign messages. To support the NCD community as a champion please send the name of your representative to Gina Sanchez, Campaign Coordinator, NCD Alliance (gsanchez@ncdalliance.org).

Thank you for your commitment to supporting people living with NCDs. NCDA and <additional organisation names> is fully committed to support your government in the pursuit of our shared goals towards the progressive global achievement of UHC and reduced burden of NCDs for all.

Best regards,

<Signature by country/regional NCD Alliance representative>