[Your organization logo]

[Address Sender]

[Address Recipient]

[Date]

**Subject: Response to Member States Breaking Silence on the Political Declaration on NCDs and Mental Health**

Your Excellency [name of contact in either UN Mission or govt rep in capital, feel free to tailor the salutations accordingly],

On behalf of [Organisation name(s)] [and the NCD Alliance – optional if helpful], I am writing to share our reflections and recommendations in response to **Revision 3 of the Political Declaration** for the 2025 United Nations High-Level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases and the Promotion of Mental Health, on which silence has been broken.

As negotiations continue, we are **deeply concerned that Rev.3 is significantly less ambitious** and that **renegotiations will lead to further weakening of the text**, risking the global community’s ability to deliver on the commitments needed to meet SDG target 3.4. The mandate for HLM4 was clear on the need for a concise, action-oriented Declaration, that builds on previous commitments and mobilises political will and action via measurable global targets and commitments. The current draft falls significantly short on this mandate and must not be further watered down. In particular, we urge [Country name] to take a strong position to:

1. **Support and Retain Global NCD Targets**

We commend the inclusion of fast-track and indicator targets but are concerned by the dilution of tracer targets and removal of references to 2030 coverage goals. These targets are essential benchmarks to accelerate progress, strengthen health systems, and improve accountability, in line with A/RES/79/58 paragraph 5. We encourage explicit reference to the WHO Global Monitoring Framework on NCDs to ensure global alignment and accountability.

1. **Strengthen Language on Fiscal Measures – Paragraph 43**

We are particularly alarmed by the softening of language on health taxes from Rev.2, including the removal of sugar-sweetened beverage (SSB) taxes. This undermines existing commitments to proven, cost-effective interventions.

We urge reinstating and reinforcing language from Rev.1 to commit to: “**Implement or increase taxation on tobacco, alcohol, and sugar-sweetened beverages, as recommended by the World Health Organization to support health objectives**.”

While health-harming industries may oppose these measures, it is crucial that the policymaking be protected from conflicts of interest, particularly from alcohol, tobacco, and sugar-sweetened beverages, as they are primary risk factors for NCDs. We urge member states to also retain language on the other cost-effective ‘Best Buy’ measures that reduce these risks to health, in addition to fiscal policies, should the opportunity arise.

We call on [Country name] to act as a champion in these final moments —advocating for ambitious and accountable language on NCD targets and health taxes, and resisting the erosion of essential public health measures.

We thank you for your ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of people living with NCDs and mental health conditions. [Organisation name(s] [and the NCD Alliance – optional] stand ready to support your government in achieving our shared goals.

Best regards,

<Signature by organisation representative>

[Name, Title]

[Organization]