TEMPLATE MEDIA RELEASE

**UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL WEDNESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2025, 23:30 EST**

**Civil society warns on weak UN Declaration**

**on Noncommunicable Diseases**

**Thursday, 18 September 2025 [include name of your city].- The Global Week for Action on NCDs begins today, with civil society groups raising concerns about a weak Political Declaration, to be adopted on 25 September at the fourth UN High Level Meeting on Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health.**

“The current draft is backsliding on established commitments and appears to favor the interests of health-harming industries over public health. Crucial language on cost-effective prevention policies has been significantly weakened”, said [quote from the leadership of your organisation].

“At a time when mobilising domestic resources is critical, the draft declaration misses a vital opportunity to reinforce language on health taxes—policies that can both save lives and raise revenue”, said [quote from the leadership of your organisation].

The mandate for the fourth UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs and Mental Health was clear: a concise, action-oriented Declaration that builds on previous commitments and drives political will through measurable global targets and commitments. The current draft falls short of this mandate.

“Civil society is mentioned just once in the draft, and the role of people living with NCDs receives merely token recognition. At this critical juncture, civil society and people living with NCDs worldwide are speaking with one voice: it’s time for leadership, funding and accountability," said [quote from the leadership of your organisation].

While the current draft represents a setback for certain NCD prevention and control policies, there are also some positives, such as the inclusion of global and tracer targets to help drive accountability and measure progress toward 2030. “The next stage will be national action, and civil society is ready to keep calling for progress”, said [quote from the leadership of your organisation].

Backed by more than 3 million voices from over 115 countries, global health advocates are calling on governments to invest in cost-effective solutions, deliver on their comittments, and put people first. The [Time to Lead campaign](https://actonncds.org/take-action/call-to-lead-on-ncds), part of the Global Week for Action on NCDs (18–25 September), elevates civil society voices in the lead-up to HLM4, demanding bold leadership from governments and action to tackle the world’s biggest killers.

Every year, [43 million](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/noncommunicable-diseases) people die from NCDs. These diseases – which include heart disease, cancer, diabetes, chronic respiratory conditions, and mental health – account for [over 75 per cent of deaths worldwide](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/noncommunicable-diseases). Despite their prevalence, NCDs are the most [underfunded](https://ncdalliance.org/why-ncds/financing-ncds) global health issue relative to the billions of people impacted. [Consider adding your local statistics.]

[NCDs affect everyone, everywhere,](https://ncdalliance.org/why-ncds/NCDs) but they disproportionately impact people living in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), where access to care is limited. Among people in LMICs, NCDs and injuries kill more people under age 40 than [HIV, TB, and maternal deaths combined.](https://hms.harvard.edu/news/hidden-pandemic)

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*

**Further information:**

[add details of your organisation’s spokesperson or media relations contact]

**About** [brief description of your organisation]