[Your organization logo]

[Address Sender]

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[Date]

**Subject: Response to Rev 2 – Call to Strengthen Commitments in the 2025 UN HLM 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 2 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.

As negotiations continue, we are **deeply concerned that Rev.2 significantly weakens ambition across several critical areas**, 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. 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 41**

We are particularly alarmed by the softening of language on health taxes in Rev.2, including the removal of sugar-sweetened beverage (SSB) taxes. This undermines 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**.”

This language better reflects WHO guidance and the proven public health and economic benefits of health taxes. It also aligns with the Seville Commitment’s reference to fiscal policies as a key tool for domestic resource mobilization.

1. **Reinstate Evidence-Based NCD Prevention Policies and Protect Policymaking from Conflicts of Interest**

We express our deep concern about the removal of commercial determinants of health from paragraph 42, and significant weakening of the comprehensive legislation and regulation required to reduce the risk factors of tobacco and alcohol use, and unhealthy diets throughout the section on health-promoting environments. It is essential that the Declaration maintains robust commitments to cost-effective “best buy” policies and measures for these risk factors. Furthermore, policymaking must be protected from vested interests by embedding safeguards to prevent conflicts of interest and ensuring the engagement of only relevant private sector actors.

We call on [Country name] to act as a champion in the final negotiations—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]