

**Statement by the NCD Alliance and Africa NCDs Network (ANN) on  
Agenda 16.9: Progress Report on the Regional framework for integrating essential  
noncommunicable disease services in primary health care**

NCDs pose a considerable challenge to the African region. The age-standardised NCD mortality rate remains consistently higher than the global average, and the proportion of premature deaths from NCDs is the highest in Africa when compared to all WHO Regions<sup>1</sup>. Out-of-pocket spending for NCD services threatens households, economies and development gains.

2025 is a pivotal year for NCDs, and we would like to draw your attention to the UN High-Level Meeting on the Prevention of NCDs and Mental Health held in September in New York. We regret that the Political Declaration has been weakened, largely failing to deliver a concise, action-oriented Declaration that builds on previous commitments and mobilises political will and action. We therefore call on Member States to commit to national action on the following:

1. **Mobilise high-level political leadership to increase allocations of national budgets to health and NCDs in line with the Abuja Declaration**—recognising health as an investment in stability and growth.
2. **Operationalise multisectoral responses** through cross-sectoral data sharing and mandatory assessments of the impact of sectors such as food and agriculture, economy and trade, finance, transport, etc.
3. **Strengthen NCD services at the primary health care level**, through referral systems, trained health workers, and inclusion of essential services in benefit packages.
4. **Mobilising sustainable financing**, with measurable NCD targets, and scaling up WHO-recommended health taxes on tobacco, alcohol and sugary drinks, which improve health and raise revenue.
5. **Prioritise additional cost-effective NCD prevention policies and safeguard policymaking from conflict of interest** to protect populations from unhealthy diets, alcohol and tobacco use by embracing WHO's NCD Best Buys.
6. **Operationalise meaningful participation** of people living with NCDs, communities, and civil society in decision-making.

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<sup>1</sup> Barry, A., Impouma, B., Wolfe, C.M. *et al.* Non-communicable diseases in the WHO African region: analysis of risk factors, mortality, and responses based on WHO data. *Sci Rep* **15**, 12288 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-97180-3>