

## Turning HLM4 commitments into action

The fourth High-Level Meeting on Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health (HLM4) provided a key moment to review progress and commit to accelerated action for the next phase of the NCD response. Its associated Political Declaration sets new global targets for NCDs and mental health – a milestone achievement. The Declaration marks progress, but transforming it into action will require sustained leadership, investment, and accountability. This guide helps advocates move quickly post-HLM4, sustain pressure through 2026, and keep up momentum until 2030.

### Key outcomes

**Global and tracer targets adopted for NCDs and mental health**—a historic first, setting measurable benchmarks through 2030.

- **Integration of mental health and air pollution** within the NCD framework, building on their inclusion in 2018 and reaffirming the “5x5” agenda.
- **Stronger language on access and equity**, calling for affordable essential medicines, technologies, and financial protection.
- **Gaps on prevention and financing**, with weakened commitments on health taxes and fiscal measures.
- **Limited recognition of civil society participation** and no clear mechanism for monitoring or reporting.
- **Overall result:** A necessary but incomplete step that now demands bold national leadership and accountability. The Political Declaration represents the floor to the NCD response, not the ceiling.

### Read more



**Political Declaration**  
(Rev. 4)



**NCD Alliance's HLM4 Policy Brief**

### Post-HLM period: Leverage momentum

The period immediately after HLM4 is crucial to celebrate achievements, reflect on lessons learnt, and secure next steps. Use the momentum of HLM4 and the Political Declaration before it fades. As focus shifts from New York to capitals and Geneva, advocates should re-energise the capital–Geneva–New York triangle: follow up nationally, engage Geneva’s technical discussions, and stay visible in New York as future health-related HLMs and SDG reviews take shape.

### Immediate actions to take

- **Reflect with purpose:** See exactly what your government pledged by [watching the HLM4 recording](#), then identify what gaps remain and how civil society can shape the next steps.
- **Debrief with your delegation and key officials:** Meet with government representatives who attended HLM4—or, if none were present, with the ministries and agencies leading NCD and mental health implementation—to clarify commitments and outline next steps.
- **Meet with WHO, UN agencies, and other key partners:** Engage WHO country and regional offices, UN agencies, and other in-country or regional stakeholders that can be allies in holding government to account. Align civil society priorities with technical support and promote a multisectoral approach to NCD implementation and follow-up.
- **Develop an accountability plan:** Collaborate with key allies across civil society, professional groups, and partner organisations to agree how progress will be monitored, what tools to use (scorecards, reports, hearings), who will lead, and how results will be shared publicly.
- **Keep missions close:** Thank your New York and Geneva missions, share your coalition’s priorities, and establish a regular cadence for updates.
- **Show leadership:** Issue a public statement highlighting what your government promised and how civil society intends to track and support delivery.

### HLM4 - What was the outcome?

HLM4 saw governments from every region reaffirm their shared commitment to tackling NCDs and mental health, setting a new vision toward 2030 and beyond through a Political Declaration. The Declaration capped months of negotiation and broad civil society mobilisation. It delivered new global and tracer targets that, for the first time, offer a shared reference point for monitoring progress and strengthening accountability. While welcomed as a milestone, the Declaration also reflects the limits of political compromise—its ambition on prevention, financing, and social participation was weakened, and references to health taxes and accountability diluted. Still, the outcome provides a foundation for renewed advocacy and national action.

## Looking to 2026: Putting promises into practice

2026 will be a test of whether HLM4 commitments are more than words on paper. Advocates should focus on national action while using regional and global processes.

### Overarching priorities for all levels

- **Guard against industry interference:** Stay alert to commercial influence that can weaken or delay policy progress. Identify, expose, and report conflicts of interest, and advocate for transparent decision-making in all health processes.
- **Champion people-led advocacy:** Keep the voices and leadership of people living with NCDs and mental health conditions at the centre of advocacy. Their lived experience should guide priorities, strengthen accountability, and shape more equitable solutions.
- **Maintain contact with missions:** Keep Geneva and New York representatives informed and aligned with national priorities. Rebalance focus toward Geneva's WHO processes while staying engaged in New York through upcoming HLMs and SDG reviews to keep NCDs and mental health high on the global agenda.

### National

- **Building multisectoral partnerships across government agencies:** Work with health and finance ministries as well as other relevant ministries, legislative bodies, agencies, and partners whose policies affect NCD prevention and care. Build multisectoral collaboration tailored to your country's context to ensure NCD and mental health priorities are reflected in budgets, policies, and implementation plans.
- **Leverage windows of opportunities** to reiterate HLM4 commitments, NCD priorities and your tailored asks in relevant fora such as during elections, budget cycles discussion, plan/policy renewal and legislative processes etc.
- **Support implementation:** Position yourself as a partner to government in translating commitments into action, and where possible, formalise engagement—for example, by signing MoUs or securing seats in multisectoral committees and parliamentary groups to help oversee and drive implementation.
- **Advance accountability:** Roll out your civil society action plan to track whether promises are moving forward through policies, services, and resources, convene regular reviews, and share findings publicly.

### Regional

- **Engage and leverage regional blocs and technical agencies:** Strengthen and where possible formalise relationships with regional political and health bodies like WHO regional committees, the African Union, ASEAN, CARICOM, PAHO, and Africa CDC to contribute expertise, and support delivery of regional priorities.
- **Forge partnerships:** Collaborate with allies in your network, connect with your regional alliances where relevant as well as groups of lived experience advocates or youth.

### Global

- **Stay connected to upcoming global advocacy moments:** Keep in touch with the wider NCD Alliance network by joining webinars, following global updates, and, for members, accessing exclusive resources through the NCD Alliance newsletter and Peer Learning Advocacy Network (PLAN).
- **Engage in key global processes:** Contribute evidence and civil society perspectives into global accountability processes such as the update of the Global Monitoring Framework and the review of WHO's Best Buys, ensuring they reflect new priorities for NCDs and mental health.
- **Use global dialogues and financing moments:** Leverage opportunities such as the WHO Financing Dialogue and World Health Assembly to advocate for sustainable NCD financing and policy coherence. Stay active in national, regional, and global discussions on responses to cuts in global health funding and efforts to reshape global health architecture.
- **Track upcoming UN discussions:** Connect with HLMs in 2026 on HIV/AIDS and 2027 on Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and SDG reviews at the High-Level Political Forum to keep NCDs relevant across global agendas.
- **Sustain the triangle:** Maintain coordinated advocacy between capitals, Geneva, and New York so progress and political momentum are mutually reinforcing.

## Further down the line:

### On the road to 2030

As we look beyond 2026, advocates should plan around milestones shaping the global health and development agenda to 2030 and beyond, ensuring NCDs and mental health stay central to discussions on UHC and the post-SDG agenda. The next few years offer important moments to demonstrate progress, influence future frameworks, and strengthen accountability.

#### 2027 UHC HLM

Use this meeting to showcase progress since HLM4 and push for NCDs and mental health to be integrated into UHC benefit packages, essential medicines, and financial protection schemes.

#### 2028-2029 Scale and sustain

Continue advocating for what works, institutionalise annual review mechanisms, and actively engage in the early debates on the post-2030 development agenda.

#### 2030 Deliver and benchmark

Track your country's progress on NCDs through civil society shadow reporting to capture achievements, identify gaps, and inform advocacy for the next global health and development framework.

**The HLM4 and its Political Declaration marks a critical step forward for NCDs, but the work is far from done. The real test lies in turning words into measurable impact. Governments must now deliver, and civil society must stay coordinated, active, and united to hold them accountable and drive lasting change.**