

A parallel event hosted by
NCD Alliance and the Health Caribbean Coalition
on the side-lines of the 79th Session of the General Assembly

Leading and Linking:
Bold actions to tackle NCDs for Sustainable Development

Tuesday, 24 September | 12:30-14:00h
Church Center of the United Nations, 2nd Floor
777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017

EVENT PROGRAM

Background

Heads of State and Government will meet again in September 2025 for the fourth UN HLM on NCDs. The 2025 meeting will offer an opportunity to take stock, address the evolving global landscape, recommit to NCDs as a priority at the highest political level, and outline critical steps to build and pursue a collective vision and course of action for the next decades on NCD prevention and care.

NCDs – such as diabetes, cancers, heart and lung diseases, and mental health and neurological conditions – remain the main drivers of death and disability worldwide, causing nearly three-quarters of global mortality. Many NCDs are preventable or can be delayed, detected earlier, and better managed through health-promoting policies and stronger health systems, underpinned by a comprehensive universal health coverage (UHC) strategy. 85% of premature deaths occur in low and lower-middle-income countries, affecting these countries and those living with a lower socioeconomic status disproportionately, showing **NCDs remain a barrier to eradicating poverty and gender inequality, accessing education and decent work, and economic prosperity more broadly, hindering countries' in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

Despite some progress following the adoption of the 2018 Political Declaration of the UN HLM on NCDs, action on NCDs is still lagging, and many countries are off track to meet the SDG target 3.4 to reduce premature NCD mortality by a third by 2030. We know what works, but implementation must be supported by leadership and commitment at the highest political level. Achieving **health for all requires strengthening health systems while also aiming for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society response.**

Organized by the NCD Alliance (NCDA) and the Healthy Caribbean Coalition (HCC) on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly and the 2024 Summit of the Future, **this event will aim to convene world leaders to discuss why it's *Time to Lead* and act on NCDs for sustainable development** ahead of the 2025 UN HLM on NCDs. The conversation will focus on the links between NCDs and the broader development agenda, including the co-benefits to tackling NCDs, the broader determinants of health that will continue to challenge progress on NCD prevention and control, and what we need from the next High-Level Meeting on NCDs next year.

Agenda

12:30 – 12:35	Welcoming remarks	Leslie Rae-Ferat , CEO, Global Alliance for Tobacco Control and President-elect, NCD Alliance.
12:35 – 13:00	Provocation Discussion	<p>Moderated by Werner Obermeyer</p> <p>His Excellency Dr. Bernard Okoe Boye, Minister of Health, Republic of Ghana</p> <p>Mr. Sakiusa Tubuna, Assistant Minister - Office of the Prime Minister, Republic of Fiji</p> <p>Dr. Corinna Hawkes, PhD., Director, Agrifood Systems and Food Safety, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)</p>
13:00 – 13:30	Panel Discussion	<p>Moderated by Werner Obermeyer</p> <p>Dr. Bente Mikkelsen, Director, NCD Department, World Health Organization (WHO)</p> <p>Dr. Hatem Amer, Associate Minister for Health and Population for International Relations, Egypt</p> <p>James Anderson, Executive Director, International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA)</p> <p>Bruno Rivalan, Partnerships Lead, Health, Nutrition & Population, World Bank</p> <p>Bruno Helman, <i>Our Views Our Voices</i> Advisory Committee Member, advocate</p>
13:30 – 13:55	Q&A	<p>Moderated by Werner Obermeyer</p> <p><i>Q&A with panelists and audience members</i></p>
13:55 – 14:00	Closing Remarks	<p>Prof. Alafia Samuels, Technical Advisor, Healthy Caribbean Coalition</p> <p>Summary of key recommendations and takeaways resulting from the discussions</p>