

NCDA Statement at the 9th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB)

COVID-19 has shown that the prevalence of underlying conditions such as noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) can increase the vulnerability of populations to pandemics in high- and low-income countries. The NCD Alliance **welcomes** continued active consultation with the INB and **encourages** the creation of further pathways for civil society engagement in negotiating and drafting of the agreement. Recognising the need to negotiate a text that enables WHO Member States to take concrete and coordinated action on PPPR, we are nevertheless concerned that the latest text significantly reduces reference to non-discrimination, gender equity and protection of persons in vulnerable situations, such as people living with existing health conditions; fails to adequately incorporate the progressive realisation of universal health coverage to ensure access to essential health services; and, whilst referencing meaningful engagement of communities, fails to include the wider role that civil society plays in supporting the implementation of pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.