

NCD Alliance Statement – Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States Side Event: Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs), Health and Development

- The NCD Alliance congratulates the organizers of this event and welcomes the opportunity to speak on behalf of 2,000 civil society organizations that make up our global membership.
- Over the last five years, NCDs have been elevated onto national, regional and global health and development agendas. At the global level, the landmark 2011 UN Political Declaration on NCD Prevention and Control, the 2025 global NCD targets, and the Global NCD Action Plan, demonstrate clearly that the world's governments now recognise NCDs as an urgent global problem and have taken responsibility to act. And here in this region of the Pacific, leaders have taken bold steps to accelerate progress – including endorsing the Pacific NCD Roadmap and the Tobacco Free Pacific 2025 goal.
- All major political commitments on NCDs reinforce the important role of civil society as an imperative to achieving progress in NCDs. Indeed, a vibrant and strong civil society movement is a fundamental strategy to reaching the global “25 by 25” NCD mortality target.
- There are three primary roles CSOs must play in advancing the NCD response in the SIDS context – technical expertise and advocacy, accountability, and service delivery. I will briefly expand upon these, drawing upon some examples of the work of the NCD Alliance, Framework Convention Alliance, and others:
 - 1) **Technical Expertise and Advocacy:** It was the work and commitment of the NCD Alliance, together with many other civil society organisations, that was instrumental in stimulating the political will to hold the 2011 UN High-Level Meeting. We strive to provide technical input and make sure global commitments on NCDs are ambitious yet achievable and result in effective response to the NCD epidemic. For example, the Framework Convention Alliance now a partner of the NCD Alliance, actively supports negotiations of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control supporting such strategies as raising taxes on tobacco. Now, NCD Alliance efforts are focused on the post-2015 development agenda and ensuring NCDs are recognised as a priority for health and across all dimensions of sustainable development. We look to SIDS leaders for your continued commitment and leadership on this, given the enormous NCD burden in our countries.
 - 2) **Accountability:** The observance and tracking of commitments is one of the critical watchdog, or accountability, roles played by CSOs, both directed towards government commitments and other stakeholders, including the private sector. This watchdog function has been proven successful in areas like tobacco control, where shadow reporting serves to monitor the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control or FCTC. Furthermore, the NCD Alliance has produced a Benchmarking Tool, which assesses policy progress on NCDs. This tool has been successfully piloted in four geographies so far- the Caribbean region, South Africa, Brazil, and East Africa. We would seek to develop this activity in the Pacific region in the near future.
 - 3) **Service delivery:** CSOs have been involved in providing direct NCD services for generations, in both prevention and treatment. There are many NGOs of varying sizes across SIDS involved in these activities, ranging from health promotion, tobacco cessation, tackling childhood obesity, patient empowerment, care of the diabetic foot, and palliative hospice care for NCDs. We are here to support our governments, and ensure services are tailored to the needs of the people.
- Ladies and gentlemen, these roles are facilitated **by capacity building and forming strategic alliances**, which the NCD Alliance is also taking forward. NCD Alliance is now coordinating a growing network of 30 national and regional NCD alliances, as well as facilitating twinning between alliances to share expertise and strengthen capacity. One of our regional alliances - the Healthy Caribbean Coalition – is demonstrating that this approach can be extremely successful in the SIDS context. I would like to end by urging leaders here today at this event to consider this approach for the Pacific region – a Pacific NCD Alliance.

The NCD Alliance is led by:

