*Date*

Dear *XXX*,

I am writing on behalf of the [add country alliance] and the NCD Alliance to ask you to demonstrate your leadership in the fight against noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) by attending the UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs in New York on Thursday 27 September.

At this UN High-Level Meeting (UN HLM), governments will review progress and make commitments to accelerate country action on NCDs, which pose a heavy burden and demand urgent attention, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. .

[Acknowledge their previous leadership on NCDs if applicable].

We strongly encourage you to seize this opportunity to join the ranks of fellow Heads of State and Government to advance integrated NCD action and investment to the highest political level.

In 2015, NCDs accounted for 70 percent of global mortality; of these, 80 percent of premature deaths occurred in low- and middle-income countries and disproportionately impacted the most vulnerable everywhere.

NCDs also cause devastating suffering and economic strain on individuals, their families, and on our health systems and economies more broadly. If left unaddressed, NCDs will result in a total economic loss of 47 trillion USD by 2025.

[Insert country-specific data on burden of NCDs, current initiatives/policies in place to address NCDs, etc.]

A multisectoral issue by nature, action at the highest political level is needed to mobilize resources to implement comprehensive NCD strategies. It is also key to facilitating policy coherence across sectors to address the social, economic and environmental drivers and determinants of NCDs.

This UN HLM will be the first opportunity for world leaders to examine NCDs within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, and to share what works to drive progress towards the global NCD targets and attainment of the SDGs.

We have witnessed public and political momentum mounting in support of the prevention and control of NCDs since 2011. This has resulted in outstanding achievements, including the 2011 High-Level Political Declaration and an updated set of evidence-based, low-cost NCD interventions – the ‘WHO Best Buys’.

However, the world is still not on track to reaching the collective goal of achieving a 25% reduction in premature NCD deaths by 2025, and the NCD burden continues to grow, particularly in those countries least prepared to respond.

We have clear NCD targets and evidence-based, cost-effective solutions. The UN HLM is our collective opportunity to make bold commitments on how to boost investment and high-level political action to implement at scale. NCD action is an investment, not a cost, and strategic, forward-looking responses across prevention and control will not only save lives but mitigate escalating health care costs.

**The** [Insert name of alliance] and the **NCD Alliance wish to offer ongoing support in your efforts to stem the tide of NCDs, and look forward to your leadership as we work toward a successful HLM and beyond.**

Yours Sincerely,

*Your signature/Name/Title/Organization*

**About** [Insert name of alliance]

[Provide a brief description]

**About the NCD Alliance**

The NCD Alliance is a unique civil society network, dedicated to improving NCD prevention and control worldwide. It was founded in 2009 by three global federations: the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), the World Heart Federation (WHF), and the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), which were joined the following year by the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease. Together, these organisations represented the four main non-communicable diseases (NCDs) outlined in the World Health Organization’s (WHO) 2008-2013 Action Plan for NCDs: cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, and chronic respiratory diseases. They came together in recognition that these conditions share common risk factors (including tobacco use, physical inactivity, harmful use of alcohol and unhealthy diets), and share common solutions. By working together as an alliance, they created a mutual platform for collaboration and joint advocacy. The mantra of NCD Alliance has always been ‘together we are stronger’.

NCDA is a registered NGO in Switzerland with a global network of 2,000 organisations in over 170 countries. The network spans the NCD community - across a broad range of diseases and risk factors that extends beyond the “4 by 4”, including mental and neurological health, co-morbid conditions such as osteoporosis, psoriasis, and oral health, as well as environmental health. It comprises members of our federations, global and national civil society organisations, scientific and professional associations, academic and research institutions, and dedicated individuals. Together with strategic partners including the WHO, the United Nations (UN) and governments, the NCD Alliance works at global, regional and national levels, to bring a united civil society voice to the global campaign on NCDs.