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**Subject: Support Needed for Stronger Commitments in the 2025 UN HLM Political Declaration on NCDs and Mental Health**

Your Excellency [name of contact in either UN Mission or govt rep in capital, feel free to tailor the salutations accordingly],

I’m writing on behalf of ][organisation name(s)] [and NCD Alliance – optional, if helpful] regarding the 2025 United Nations High-Level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases and the Promotion of Mental Health, and its accompanying Political Declaration.

As negotiations on the Political Declaration continue, we strongly support the continued inclusion of NCD “fast-track” and indicator targets within the text. We would like to stress that the retention of these targets is critical to delivering the HLM’s mandate for an “action-oriented political declaration with a shared vision to mobilise political will” and its proposal of “consideration of measurable global targets and objectives” (A/RES/79/58 paragraph 5). These targets also support accelerated implementation toward UHC, strengthen health systems, and deliver significant economic returns.

However, we would like to express concern about proposed changes to the text of the Political Declaration on NCDs and mental health on health taxes. This is akey area in which the text of the adjusted Rev 1 has been weakened to the detriment of the overall objectives of the declaration. We are hoping to reverse these changes and either maintain or further reinforce the original Rev 1 language.

* Specifically, we are focused on proposed changes to paragraph 41. We urge Member States to build on Zero Draft language by saying “implement or increase” taxes rather than “use”, to emphasize the need to strengthen these measures to meet health objectives by using WHO recommendations as a reference. We suggest the following: *“Implement or increase taxation on tobacco, alcohol, sugar-sweetened beverages, as recommended by the World Health Organization to support health objectives.”*
* We urge [country name] to take a strong position on health and development by supporting the Political Declaration’s targets and ambitious language on health taxes, and we hope that you will bring this to the attention of other like-minded Member States before the final round of negotiations, so that the text can remain a strong tool for the prevention and control of NCDs.

Thank you for your commitment to supporting people living with NCDs. NCDA and [additional organisation names] are fully committed to supporting your government in the pursuit of our shared goals towards scaling up and accelerating action on NCDs.

Best regards,

<Signature by country/regional NCD Alliance representative>

[Name, Title]

[Organization]