

NCD Alliance Statement– Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States Multi-stakeholder official partnership dialogue: Social development in Small Island Developing States, health and non-communicable diseases, youth and women

- The NCD Alliance congratulates the organizers of this event and welcomes the announcement of a Pacific NCD Partnership to increase the capacity and multisectoral coordination on NCDs in the region.
- A common thread that underpins all global and regional NCD directives, including the 2011 UN Political Declaration, the Global NCD Action Plan, and the Pacific NCD Roadmap as well as the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, is the importance of sectoral cooperation. The mantra was, and remains, NCDs are everyone’s business and no one sector can solve this epidemic alone.
- Therefore multisectoral partnerships and mechanisms – such as this new Pacific NCD Partnership - are urgently needed to facilitate sectoral cooperation on NCDs. Given that all governments at the recent UN High-Level Review on NCDs reinforced their commitment to multisectoral action, including a specific commitment to establish National Multisectoral NCD Commissions, this regional partnership is certainly timely.
- In my remaining time, I would like to outline four important considerations for the establishment and implementation of this new Pacific NCD Partnership, from a civil society perspective:
 1. The Partnership’s objectives and activities must seek to address the unique challenges and vulnerabilities we face in the NCD response in this region. For example, countries such as Solomon Islands have had to face tobacco industry interference in developing public health policy. By carving out a clear added value and clear roles, the Partnership is an important opportunity to elevate advocacy and awareness of NCDs within the region, strengthen the capacity of its constituent members, and broker knowledge and good practice.
 2. Given the significant impact the NCD epidemic has across all dimensions of sustainable development in the SIDS context, it will be crucial for the Partnership to facilitate engagement across other sectors and with non-health actors, including poverty, development, environment, trade, education.
 3. The voice of civil society must be present in all multisectoral activities, providing unique support and perspectives in advocacy, technical and implementation expertise, and the patient perspective. As a civil society alliance, the NCD Alliance and one of our steering committee members, the Framework Convention Alliance, have numerous members in the Pacific region – ranging across the disease and risk factor organisations – that will add significant value to the work of this Partnership.
- The NCD Alliance is a ready and willing partner in these regional activities, and looks forward to inputting our expertise toward achieving better outcomes for people at risk or living with NCDs.

The NCD Alliance is led by:

