

TIME TO LEAD

GLOBAL WEEK FOR ACTION ON NCDs

17-24 SEPTEMBER 2025



NCD ALLIANCE PRIORITIES FOR THE MODALITIES RESOLUTION for the 2025 UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs

The world has changed significantly in the years since the 3rd United Nations High-Level Meeting (HLM) on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in 2018. Though our paradigms shifted with the adoption of the first political declaration on Universal Health Coverage, and the interlinking nature of global health agendas has been reinforced by the COVID-19 pandemic, noncommunicable diseases, including mental health and neurological conditions (NCDs), remain at the center of the toll taken on people's health and well-being. As global priorities evolve with the intensifying polycrisis, progress on NCDs is at risk of falling even further off track to meet the targets set, and the NCD burden remains unacceptable, increasing and inequitable.

The 4th UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs in 2025 is a key moment for Heads of State and Government, civil society, academia, philanthropies, and relevant private sector to come together to review progress and commit to accelerated action for the next phase of the political response for NCDs.

The modalities resolution is an opportunity to determine the scope, procedure, format, and organization of the HLM and its outcome document to ensure it delivers meaningful progress on the NCD agenda. To ensure that this process is as robust and action-oriented as possible, we call on Member States to include the following in the HLM Modalities Resolution:

Date

Schedule the UN HLM in September 2025 during the high-level week of the UN General Assembly to encourage the highest-level participation by Member States and engage the broader sustainable development community.

High-level participation

Emphasize the importance of Member State participation at the highest political level, e.g. Heads of State and Government, as done in all previous NCD HLMs. NCDs are a whole-of-government issue and a sustainable development challenge that impacts well beyond health; engagement and commitment from the highest level of leadership is essential.

Civil society engagement

Ensure the meaningful engagement of civil society, particularly people living with NCDs and other marginalized groups, throughout the HLM process. This includes:

For the Multi-stakeholder Hearing (MSH)

- An open and interactive one-day multi-stakeholder hearing before the end of May producing a summary report so that the inputs inform the political declaration negotiations.
- An inclusive and transparent registration process for the MSH, including civil society, philanthropies, UN agencies, academia, and relevant private sector, which promotes multi-sectoral discussion between participants.
- Involving civil society as speakers and leading participants across all components of the MSH; moreover, ensuring equitable representation of diverse geographies, gender, and income levels among the participants and speakers.
- Facilitate the engagement and participation of global civil society in the MSH through an interactive webcast.
- A meeting report to be prepared by the President of the General Assembly to be provided before beginning of negotiations on the political declaration.

For the High-Level Meeting

- A clear and transparent registration process to attend the HLM that is open to civil society organizations, including those without ECOSOC accreditation, philanthropies, and academia.
- Specific opportunities for civil society, including people living with NCDs, to speak at the HLM; for example in the opening session and multi-sectoral panels.
- Promote transparency by broadcasting the HLM plenary and any parallel sessions through the UN's live webcast.
- Call upon Member States to include civil society and advocates with lived experience as part of their government delegations for the HLM.

Outcomes

Agreement that the HLM should result in the approval of a forward-looking, concise, and action-oriented outcome document with specific, measurable commitments that boost NCD investment and accelerate action on NCDs by strengthening their integration with other global health agendas and across the Sustainable Development Goals.



We can create a fairer and healthier world by implementing the evidence-based solutions for tackling NCDs, strengthened through multi-sectoral and participatory approaches to governance protected from conflicts of interest.