

HCC Intervention UN Interactive Hearing July 5 2018

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As representatives of developing nations with high NCD burdens and a range of capacity challenges, we have a vested interest in a robust political declaration which provides a clear, actionable and relevant political framework for action. We have 4 priority responses to the zero draft political declaration:

1. There is a need to invest in health systems to adequately respond to NCDs in humanitarian crises such as those experienced by the Caribbean in the devastating 2017 hurricane season.
2. There must be strong reference to the WHO Best Buys and other cost effective recommendations in the Political Declaration. The WHO Best buys are the gold standard of a comprehensive NCD response and particularly valuable for those countries bearing the greatest burden of the NCD epidemic for which cost effective, evidence based solutions are vital. Of key importance are fiscal policies or STAX - SSB, tobacco and alcohol taxes which can be used to finance NCD interventions.
3. We welcome the inclusion of the private sector however the language does not recognise the considerable heterogeneity of this group and moreover *[The language on the private sector is weak – there is a need specifically flag the need to recognise conflict of interest when interacting with those private sector actors that are the purveyors of unhealthy commodities such as alcohol and energy dense nutrient poor foods. Further the language directed at these groups is weak and leans towards self-regulation which evidence has clearly demonstrated is ineffective. Global multinationals are aggressively targeting developing countries. It is vital that a political outcome document of this magnitude provide member states with guidance around navigating public private partnerships and recognise the importance of placing public health interests over private sector profits.*
4. Finally, the declaration requires explicit direction to Heads of Government and State to guide their actions as stewards of the national NCD response beyond the HLM. This direction should focus on leading a whole of government response, engaging non-health ministries at the highest levels and mandating specific interventions with earmarked budgets.

Thank you.