

## MSH Panel 1 Intervention Kenneth Connell HCC

### PANEL 1 Tackling the determinants of noncommunicable diseases and mental health and well-being through multisectoral and effective governance and collaborative action.

#### RESPONSE

1. Excellencies, colleagues, thank you for the opportunity to deliver a statement on behalf of the Healthy Caribbean Coalition, an alliance of civil society organisations located in the Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean.
2. The HCC extends congratulations to the UN Member States on the completion of the negotiation of the Political Declaration to be agreed today.
3. As SIDS, among the hardest hit by the NCDs - driven by the commercial determinants of health and compounded by disproportionate climate vulnerability, this Political Declaration presents a unique opportunity to express strong evidence-based Member State commitments - reinforcing the comprehensive 2023 SIDS Bridgetown Declaration on Mental Health and NCDs.
4. Progress on NCD prevention has been systematically obstructed by commercial determinants. The failure of this Political Declaration to achieve its full potential is due in part to these very commercial determinants, and signifies the power of these actors and interests to permeate the very highest levels of policymaking.
5. So as we collectively move forward to translate the Political Declaration into action - we call on Member States to prioritise *the development of specific tools to support the safeguarding of health governance and policymaking processes, including multisectoral and multistakeholder mechanisms and other participatory approaches from conflicts of interest and undue influence*. These safeguards are critical in many contexts - in particular in SIDS and LMICs – to open the door for the implementation of robust evidence-based NCD regulation.