



62nd DIRECTING COUNCIL

*77th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS
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- Past HCC Board Member, Current HCC Member and NCDA Board Member

Statement on Provisional Agenda 4.5

Plan of Action on Noncommunicable Disease Prevention and Control 2025–2030 (Resolution CE176.R9 [2025])

WORDS: 289

Thank you Chair. The Healthy Caribbean Coalition, CLAS, Let's Unpack It, Earth Medic Earth Nurse, United for Global Mental Health, NCD Alliance and Movendi International welcome the *PAHO Plan of Action on Noncommunicable Disease Prevention and Control 2025–2030* as Member States of the UN General Assembly prepare to adopt the Political Declaration of the 4th UN High Level Meeting on NCDs and Mental Health.

We applaud the clarity and simplicity of the Plan. We welcome the specific indicators on: regulatory actions across risk factors and the emphasis on fiscal tools such as taxation; obesity; TFA elimination; operationalisation of Better Care for NCDs including expansion of HEARTS, access to essential medicines and HPV testing; and surveillance systems and research.

We are however concerned about the absence of an indicator to measure multisectoral response mechanisms which support social participation and safeguard against conflicts of interest. Policy interference due to weak governance is among the greatest barriers to progress on NCD prevention and control and thus a critical element of the NCD response must be the protection of policymaking to facilitate implementation of robust evidence-based regulations.

The Plan continues to use the outdated and inconsistent term '*harmful use of alcohol*'.

Finally, the 4*4 approach underpinning the Plan excludes both mental health and air pollution, thereby undermining their integration across the NCD agenda and reinforcing a siloed approach to NCDs, mental health and climate change. While we acknowledge PAHO has a Strategy for Mental Health¹, we believe the Plan should have explicitly referenced both mental health and air pollution, in acknowledgement of the broader 5*5 approach.

In summary HCC and our civil society community welcome the Plan and look forward to partnering over the next five years to support its implementation.

Thank you.

¹ [CE172/17 - Strategy for Improving Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in the Region of the Americas](#)