

WHO Executive Board 158th session
February 2026

Follow-up to the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (item 6)

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

The WMA urges decisive action to fully implement the Political Declaration on non-communicable diseases in a holistic approach. This requires strong, resilient health systems that deliver health education and prevention through integrated, person-centred primary health care, supported by robust secondary and tertiary services, and capable of responding to pandemics, climate-related health emergencies, ageing populations and other crisis.

Governments must also urgently strengthen the health workforce by ensuring safe and decent working conditions, protecting physical and mental well-being, guaranteeing continuing professional development, and addressing the drivers of brain drain from low- and middle-income countries.

Finally, non-communicable diseases and mental health care must be systematically included in universal health coverage essential benefit packages.

Thank you.