



79th WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

May 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 12.1)

Honorable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

The WMA urges decisive action to fully implement the Political Declaration on NCDs through primary health care-oriented systems. These integrated, person-centred systems must cover the entire continuum of care: from health promotion, disease prevention and diagnosis to treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care. They must also remain resilient against pandemics, climate emergencies, and aging populations.

We must transition to person-centred, community-based mental health care within universal health coverage. People living with mental health conditions deserve dignified care, free from stigma and discrimination.

Governments must urgently strengthen the health workforce. This means ensuring safe working conditions, protecting well-being, and stopping the brain drain.

Finally, we must include NCDs and mental health in essential benefit packages. A holistic, system-wide approach is the only way to tackle this burden and build true resilience.

Thank you.