



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

8 June 2018

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 4 June 2018, I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter from H.E. Mr. Sebastiano Cardi, Permanent Representative of Italy, and H.E. Mr. Elbio Rosselli, Permanent Representative of Uruguay, co-facilitators of the intergovernmental consultations and negotiations in preparation for a comprehensive review of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

The co-facilitators' letter transmits the draft elements paper for the political declaration. The next informal consultations on the draft will be held on 29 June 2018.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Lajčák', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Miroslav Lajčák

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



**Permanent Mission of Italy
to the United Nations**



**Permanent Mission of Uruguay
to the United Nations**

7 June 2018

Excellency,

We are honored to write you in our capacity as co-facilitators to lead the intergovernmental consultations and negotiations in preparation of the comprehensive review in 2018 of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases as contained in documents A/RES/68/300 and A/RES/72/274.

As it was informed today, the second informal consultations will be held on 29 June 2018, from 10 am in the ECOSOC Chamber.

In accordance with paragraph 6 of the Resolution A/72/274, we are pleased to include in this letter the proposed draft elements paper for a political declaration.

In preparation for the second informal consultations and in order to advance substantively our joint work, we encourage you to share your views and proposed elements also by email to Cristiana Mele of Italy (cristiana.mele@esteri.it) and Claudia García Moyano of Uruguay (claudia.garcia@mrree.gub.uy).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

H.E. Mr. Sebastiano Cardi

Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Italy to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Elbio Rosselli

Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Uruguay to the United Nations

H.E. Miroslav Lajčák

President of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly

DRAFT

Political Declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

TIME TO DELIVER: Accelerating our response to address NCDs for the health and well-being of present and future generations

Chapeau 1. We, Heads of State and Government and representatives of States and Governments, assembled at the United Nations on 27th September 2018 to undertake a comprehensive review of the challenges and opportunities to implement our existing commitments for the prevention and control of NCDs, which constitute a major challenge for the health and well-being of our peoples and for sustainable development; **(OP1 of 72/274, P2 and P26 of 70/1)**

PP1. Strongly reaffirm our political commitment to accelerate progress on the implementation of the previous HLM outcome documents on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases ¹, which continue to inspire our action and catalyse our efforts in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development , in order to reduce risk factors for non communicable diseases and addressing the socio-economic and environmental determinants of NCDs and promote mental health and well-being **(66/2 and 68/300, OP78 of 70/1)**

PP2. Recalling the SG report that recognizes that action to realize the commitment made in 2011 and 2014 is inadequate, that the current level of progress is insufficient to meet target 3.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals and the world has yet to fulfil its promise of implementing measures to reduce the risk of dying prematurely from non-communicable diseases

PP3. Acknowledge the remarkable progress achieved by some countries in the implementation of their commitments made in 2011 and 2014 for the prevention and control of four major non-communicable diseases, namely, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases **by reducing their main common risk factors, namely, tobacco use, the harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diets and physical inactivity,** as well as by improving disease management to reduce morbidity, disability and death

¹ Resolutions A/RES/66/2 and A/RES/68/300

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PP4. Recognize that many countries still face important challenges in the implementation of their commitments, remain deeply concerned that the burden of non-communicable diseases continues to rise disproportionately in developing countries and acknowledge that the huge human and economic cost of non-communicable diseases contributes to poverty and inequality and threatens the health of peoples and the development of countries **(Paragraph 4 and 13 in A71/17)**

PP5. Welcome that the General Assembly proclaimed 2016-2025 as the Decade of Action on Nutrition; **(70/259, P10 of Rome Declaration on Nutrition)**

PP6. Welcome the convening of the WHO Global Conference on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, hosted by the Governments of Finland, Russian Federation, Uruguay and WHO, from 18 to 20 October 2018 in Montevideo, and its outcome document entitled “Montevideo roadmap (2018-2030) on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases as a sustainable development priority” and recall resolution 71.2 of the WHA

PP7. Welcome further the report of WHO Independent High Level Commission on NCDs entitled “Time to deliver” and note its recommendations

PP8. Recognize that mental disorders and other mental health conditions contribute to the global burden of non-communicable diseases and that people living with mental disorders and other mental health conditions have an increased risk of other non-communicable diseases and higher rates of morbidity and mortality

PP9. Acknowledge the impact of non-communicable diseases on children, which is of particular concern, and recognizing that children that are given the opportunity to grow and develop in an environment that, at a young age, fosters and encourages healthy behaviours and lifestyles, including dietary choices and physical activity, and promotes the maintenance of healthy weight, can greatly reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases in adulthood²;

PP10. Reaffirm the primary role and responsibility of Governments in responding to the challenge of non-communicable diseases by developing national responses for their prevention and control, and promoting and protecting the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; **(PP3 of 66/2, and WHO Constitution)**

² Source: Set of WHO recommendations of the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children endorsed by resolution WHA63.14

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PP11. Acknowledge that other stakeholders also share responsibility and can contribute in creating a conducive environment to prevent and control non-communicable diseases, and recognize the need to bring together civil society and the private sector to mobilize all available resources to the implementation of national responses for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases; **(P39 of 70/1)**

Chapeau 2. We, therefore, commit to scale up efforts and further implement the following actions:

OP1. Strengthen our commitment as Heads of State and Government to exercise a strategic leadership for the prevention and control of NCDs by promoting greater policy coherence and coordination engaging decisive and bold actions across government and will all stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, and by ensuring that issues relating to non-communicable diseases receive an appropriate, coordinated, comprehensive and integrated whole-of-society response; **(R1 of the report of the HLC, and P30(a)(viii) of 68/300)**

OP2. Scale up the implementation of the commitments made in 2011 and 2014 for the prevention and control of NCDs as part of the ambitious national responses to the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by integrating, as appropriate, action on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and promotion of mental health and well-being into national responses;**(based on R2 of the report of the HLC, p.78 of 70/1, p30 of 68/300)**

OP3. According to country-led prioritization integrate the set of cost-effective affordable and evidence based interventions for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases that can be scaled up to treat people with non-communicable diseases, protect those at risk of developing them, and reduce risk across populations; (= **based on R2 of the report of the HLC, P78 of 70/1, P30(a)(v) of 68/300, P45(a) of 66/2, and P45(m) of 66/2;**

OP4. Establish or strengthen national multi-stakeholder dialogue mechanisms with accountability for the implementation of the national multisectoral action plan for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases to attain the national targets; **(R6 of the report of the HLC, Montevideo Roadmap, and 30(a)(vi) of 68/300)**

OP5. Share information with global and regional partners on experiences, including successes and challenges related to the implementation of national policies and

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programmes to prevent and control non-communicable diseases, in order to build the global evidence base on best practices and lessons learned to promote informed action;

OP6. Take the necessary measures to recognize the rights to health across the life-course in keeping with human rights obligations and addressing the specific health needs of children and other groups more vulnerable to non-communicable diseases;

OP7. Scale up efforts to use information and communications technologies, including e-health and m-health and other innovative solutions as well as promote public-private partnership to accelerate action towards the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;

OP8. Scale up the implementation of the commitments made in 2011 and 2014 to reduce tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diets and physical inactivity taking into account, as appropriate, recommended interventions for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases;

OP9. Implement cost-effective and evidence based intervention to halt overweight and obesity in particular, childhood obesity, taking into account WHO recommendations and national priorities;

OP10. Promote and implement policy, legislative, regulatory measures, including fiscal as appropriate, aiming at minimizing the impact of risk factors, promote healthy diets and lifestyles;

OP11. Accelerate the implementation of WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco control by its States parties, while calling for its universal ratification. Continue to implement tobacco control measures without any tobacco industry interference, taking into account the fundamental and irreconcilable conflict of interest between the tobacco industry and public health;

[OP12. Empower the individual to make informed choices by providing the appropriate environment, strengthen health literacy through formal education, implement mass media campaigns that educate the public about the harms of smoking/tobacco use and second hand smoke, implement social marketing campaigns to reduce the intake of total fat, saturated fats, sugars and salt, and promote the intake of fruits and vegetables and implement mass media campaigns to support behavioral change of physical activity levels;]

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/OP12.alt Empower the individual to make informed choices by providing the appropriate environment, strengthen health literacy through formal education, implement mass media campaigns that educate the public about the harms of smoking/tobacco use and second hand smoke;

OP12. alt bis Promote, with specific media campaigns, healthy and sustainable diets and physical activity; /

OP13. Strengthen and reorient health systems including services for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and mental health, as part of universal health coverage, including access to safe, affordable, effective and quality essential medicines and technologies;

OP14. Strengthen people-centred primary health care services to ensure equitable coverage throughout the lifecycle with an adequate and well-equipped health workforce so that preventive interventions can be provided for people at risk of disease, and treatment and specialised care for people affected by a non-communicable disease; (R3 of the report of the HLC, P45(j) of 66/2)

OP15. Implement measures to improve mental health and well-being, integrating services and treatment for people living with mental health conditions into national responses for non-communicable diseases and addressing their social determinants and other health needs.

OP16. Promote meaningful civil society engagement to encourage governments to develop ambitious national responses for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, forge multi-stakeholder partnerships and alliances that mobilize and share knowledge, provide services, carry out inclusive reviews of progress, and amplify the voices of people living with and affected by non-communicable diseases; **(Co-Chairs Statement of WHO GCM/NCD Dialogue on the role of non-State actors)**

OP17. Engage with the private sector, taking into account national health priorities and objectives on how it can contribute to implementation of national NCD responses to reach SDG 3,4 as well as benefits and risks.

OP18. With a view to strengthening its contribution to non-communicable disease prevention and control, call upon the private sector, where appropriate, to:

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- (a) Take measures to implement the World Health Organization set of recommendations to reduce the impact of the marketing of unhealthy foods and nonalcoholic beverages to children, while taking into account existing national legislation and policies;
- (b) Consider producing and promoting more food products consistent with a healthy diet, including by reformulating products to provide healthier options that are affordable and accessible and that follow relevant nutrition facts and labelling standards, including information on sugars, salt and fats and, where appropriate, trans-fat content;
- (c) Promote and create an enabling environment for healthy behaviours among workers, including by establishing tobacco-free workplaces and safe and healthy working environments through occupational safety and health measures, including, where appropriate, through good corporate practices, workplace wellness programmes and health insurance plans;
- (d) Work towards reducing the use of salt in the food industry in order to lower sodium consumption;
- (e) Contribute to efforts to improve access to and affordability of medicines and technologies in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases; (para 44 of A/res/66/2)

OP19. Promote transparency and accountability mechanisms for the prevention and control of NCDs and promoting mental health and well-being, taking into account, as appropriate, national health impact assessments, as part of government effort to lead the development and implementation of effective interventions for addressing non-communicable diseases;

OP20. Enhance the provision and allocation of adequate, predictable and sustained resources for national responses to prevent and control non-communicable diseases and promote mental health and well-being, through domestic, bilateral, and multilateral channels, including international cooperation and Official Development Assistance, and continue exploring voluntary innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships to advance action at all levels; **(P32 of 68/300 and P45(d) of 66/2)**

OP21. Call on WHO to continue to exercise its leadership as the directing and coordinating authority on international health in order to contribute to Member States efforts to prevent and control non-communicable diseases by strengthening its normative and standard setting role and its capacity to develop and provide technical assistance and policy advice to Member States, as well as enhance its multi-stakeholder engagement and dialogue through platforms such as the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases and the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases;

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OP22. Call further on WHO to continue to work towards promoting and monitoring enhanced global action to prevent and control NCDs through coordinating work with other United Nations agencies, development banks and other regional and international organizations, including by exploring new financing, implementation, monitoring and accountability mechanisms;

OP23. To implement these actions, we commit to act in unity to create a just and prosperous world where all people can exercise their rights and live healthy lives in a world free of the avoidable burden of NCDs.

OP24. We request the Secretary-General, in collaboration with Member States, the World Health Organization and relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to submit to the General Assembly, by the end of 2024, for consideration by Member States, a report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present political declaration, in preparation for a comprehensive review, in 2025, of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and promotion of mental health and well-being.

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