

**Fourth High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the
Prevention and Control of NCDs**

**Web-based consultation: Phase I (1–26 May 2024)
General comments on key priority areas in the WHO-Director General’s report**

Directions

The *WHO Global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2030* ([NCD-GAP](#)) provides a road map and a menu of policy options for all Member States and stakeholders, to take coordinated and coherent action, at all levels, from local to global, to attain the nine voluntary global targets. Accelerating progress on the prevention and control of NCDs, and mental health and well-being will require dedicated and collaborative actions along all six objectives of the NCD-GAP, with an added focus to reduce air pollution and promote mental health as part of the 5 by 5 agenda endorsed by the third political declaration on the prevention and control of NCDs in 2018.

Using the table below, please provide written comments on key priority areas along each objective that can catalyse urgent action and attention by Member States and stakeholders, to accelerate progress in addressing the prevention and management of NCDs, the promotion of mental health and well-being, and the treatment and care of mental health conditions. These inputs may inform the recommendations to be included in the report of the WHO Director-General to the WHA 2025 titled *Preparation for the fourth High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, to be held in 2025*.

Submission from the Global Alcohol Policy Alliance:

#	NCD-GAP objective	Comments on key priority areas
1	To raise the priority accorded to the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases in global, regional and national agendas and internationally agreed development goals, through strengthened international cooperation and advocacy.	This is crucially important. To achieve this objective, it is essential to support LMICs and civil society in these countries to be part of international coalitions and advocacy efforts. Inclusiveness also depends on the efforts made to include CSO globally, taking into account their time zones when conducting online meetings. When cooperation is concerned it is necessary to take due consideration of the commercial conflict of interest involved with many parties that claim to be stakeholders but have clear vested interests which prevent support for evidence-based policies. Such conflicts are found in both the private sector and their public relations organisations.
2	To strengthen national capacity, leadership, governance, multisectoral action and partnerships to accelerate country response for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases.	Multisectoral action is needed. Ministries of health can not solve this alone and other ministries and government sector need to be engaged with a clear public health objective. Government sectors which are aligned with commercial interests promoting the risk factors for NCDs require exposure to the health and wellbeing costs of such promotion.
3	To reduce modifiable risk factors for noncommunicable diseases and underlying social determinants through creation of health-promoting environments.	Governments need support from WHO to take bold action to regulate health harming products which create NCD risk factors. While tobacco has been addressed, the promotion of new nicotine and

		alcohol products, food systems and failure to support active transport are all in urgent need of reform.
4	To strengthen and orient health systems to address the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and the underlying social determinants through people-centred primary health care and universal health coverage.	Reaching UHC is not possible if we only look at the treatment capacity. Steps need to be taken to reduce the burden on health systems through active interventions to control risk factors and take action on the commercial determinants of health. This was pointed out clearly by DG Dr Tedros in his comments in <i>The Lancet: Achieving health for all requires action on the economic and commercial determinants of health (2023)</i> and <i>Beating NCDs can help deliver universal health coverage (2017)</i> . These points need to be reflected in the process towards the UNHLM.
5	To promote and support national capacity for high-quality research and development for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases.	National research capacity is important, together with a system to translate research knowledge into action. However, calls for research should never be allowed to slow the implementation of effective policies where a strong body of evidence already exists.
6	To monitor the trends and determinants of noncommunicable diseases and evaluate progress in their prevention and control.	Monitoring is presently demonstrating that progress is slow, and action needs to be stepped up.
*	<i>Additional:</i> To promote mental health and well-being as a vital component of achieving SDG target 3.4.	Mental health is vital and is one of the neglected health problems that needs to be addressed.

Please send this completed form to OnTheRoadTo2025@who.int during the period 1–26 May 2024.