**Statement of the Republic of Slovenia**

**75th Session of the World Health Assembly**

**22–28 May 2022**

**Agenda item 14: Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases**

**Subpoint a: Draft implementation road map 2023-2030 for the global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2023-2030**

Thank you chair,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and its Member States.

We would like to thank the secretariat for addressing NCDs so thoroughly, providing us with such a rich collection of materials under this agenda item. We fully support the adoption of the report, including implementation roadmap and other implementation documents.

We believe that addressing NCDs, including mental health, early, by investing in health promotion and primary prevention, early detection, and effective treatment, we can have exceptional results. However, to proceed faster, we will have to reach out of health sector and involve all our allies at the local, national, and international levels.

In Slovenia we have in the recent years increased investments in health promotion and preventive services. Health promotion centres have been created within primary health care centres, addressing risk factors for NCDs at community level. In addition, civil society has been financed through public tenders to support patients with NCDs, to address preventable risk factors and reach those, most vulnerable, hand in hand with health sector. We are convinced, based on these experiences, that we should further explore, how we could better use strengths of NGOs in addressing NCDs and in increasing health literacy in the future.

Still, investments in NCD prevention and control remain low, if compared with treatment costs. More cost-effective measures, such as rising taxes, ban on advertising, labelling, and limiting access to unhealthy products are difficult to adopt due to aggressive lobbying of industry and despite a bulk of evidence that they work. We can and should do better, also using advocacy capacity and other strengths of all our allies.

Furthermore, we believe, that besides more funding, NCDs deserve more attention in our future discussions. We would ask Secretariat to consider a different way of addressing the topic, including its specific areas, regularly at governing bodies meetings.

Thank you, Chair.