

HGPI Joint Input to the Zero Draft Political Declaration on NCDs and Mental Health

From the Planetary Health Project, AMR Project, and Global Health Strategy Project

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We welcome the circulation of the Zero Draft Political Declaration dated 13 May 2025, prepared by the co-facilitators—the Permanent Representatives of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Luxembourg—as part of the intergovernmental process for the Fourth UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs and Mental Health to be held on 25 September 2025 (pursuant to UNGA resolution 79/273).

We strongly support the Zero Draft's integrated framing of NCDs and mental health and its equity-based, whole-of-society approach. Drawing from our ongoing work in planetary health, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and universal health coverage (UHC), we offer the following recommendations:

We encourage Member States to:

- Explicitly reflect the planetary health perspective by maintaining references to climate change, air pollution, and biodiversity loss as environmental risk factors impacting NCDs and mental health, and emphasize the importance of building climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable health systems.
- Recognize AMR as a rising threat closely linked to NCD treatment, and integrate AMR prevention strategies—especially infection control, access to essential diagnostics, and stewardship policies—within broader health system responses.
- Reinforce UHC principles by ensuring financial protection, equitable access to essential services and medicines, and integration of mental health and NCD services into primary health care.

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