

Fourth high-level meeting on the prevention and control of NCDs and the promotion of mental health and well-being

*Equity and Integration:
Transforming lives and livelihoods
through leadership and action on
NCDs and the promotion of
mental health and well-being.*



Follows on from 2011, 2014 and 2018 high-level meetings.

2018 included air pollution as a fifth common NCD risk factor.

Approach set out in modalities resolution

- 25 September 2025, UN HQ, New York.
- Opening segment, plenary segment, two multi-stakeholder panels and brief closing segment.
- Luxembourg and St Vincent & Grenadines as co-facilitators.
- Concise and action-oriented political declaration, agreed in advance by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations.
- Preparatory processes included a series of dialogues for New York missions, a multistakeholder hearing, and briefings for Geneva missions.

Inputs into the political declaration negotiations

➤ Led by Member States

➤ Outcomes of global and regional consultations & events, e.g. Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health, 24-28 March, Cartagena, Colombia

- ✓ Shared goal was agreed to reduce the health impacts of air pollution by 50% by 2040 to save millions of lives every year
- ✓ Country committed for stronger multisectoral action and pledged for increased funding

➤ Support from WHO, UN with inputs from development partners.

➤ UNSG Progress report since 2018

- Importance of social, commercial, environmental and economic determinants of health.
- Air pollution a major contributor to NCDs.
- Of 7 million deaths related to air pollution in 2019, 85% were linked to NCDs.
- 2.1 billion people still rely on polluting fuels and technologies for cooking.
- Unacceptable levels of fine particulate matter affect almost all the world's population.
- Few countries are on track to achieve SDG target 3.9 (reduce deaths and illnesses from air pollution).



Member States need to consider what the political declaration will look like? Some thoughts...

- **Be concise and action oriented.** Ambitious but realistic. Above all, based on evidence.
- Emphasize the **impact** of NCDs and mental health conditions **on human capital & economies.**
- Be positive, **emphasizing that progress has been made.** We know what works. If these are scaled, we can make rapid progress.
- Highlight governance, finance & partnerships, with those with **lived experience** at the centre.
- Emphasize action **across all age groups.**
- A strong **accountability** framework and mechanism.

***Less is more** when it comes to commitments. A prioritized and action orientated Political Declaration may be most effective in focusing attention and being credible.*

***Build on success** Member States from all regions and income groups have demonstrated progress in many areas, which everyone can build on.*

Examples of what member states may consider including in the political declaration for air pollution

- **Air quality management**, starting with adopting **air quality standards** aligned with WHO air quality guidelines and **embedded in legislation**;
- Clean energy access at the household level with **affordable and less polluting fuels and technologies** for cooking, heating and lighting;
- **Strict emissions control** for industry and transport;
- **Clean, efficient and expanded urban transit**, car share schemes and low-emission zones;
- **Reducing/banning the open burning of waste.**