Comments:

The document does mention the life course; however, the document needs to emphasize the role of NCDs risk factors and antecedents that emerge in children and adolescents.

Priority for the prevention of NCDs as a strategy for child and adolescent health will need more emphasis, in order to provide resources to this important aspect of NCDs prevention and control. The following additional changes are suggested:

1. Under Item #2, efforts to reduce premature morbidity and mortality from NCDs should be included. We must commit to addressing the important role of morbidity in our approach to NCDs.

2. Under Item #9, specify that "we will ensure a highly skilled, well-trained, multi-disciplinary well-resourced health workforce". We will strengthen the pipeline for health care workers, at all levels of the education system. The health system should focus on an integrated approach to primary care, to coordinate health care that will address both communicable diseases as well and noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

3. Under the section "Enable health systems to respond more effectively to NCDs", please include an Item that address the need for data to monitor trends related to NCDs and their antecedents. Data should be stratified by age and gender, and data should be gathered on children and adolescents. Data should not be limited to adults, so that the life course approach is reflected in all aspects of the health system.

4. Under Item #13, there should be inclusion of gender-based approaches.

Advancing Synergy