**About**
The Commonwealth Youth Health Network (CYHN) is a platform for young people to advocate and engage on global issues related to health, through individual and collective action, as well as through partnerships with other youth structures and key institutions at national and international levels.

Its members are drawn from different sectors, including the medical community, civil society and non-governmental organisations. CYHN partners with the Commonwealth Secretariat and member countries in achieving health-related development goals – in particular, SDG 3: to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all.

**General Comments**
CYHN welcomes this opportunity to comment on the draft Montevideo Roadmap. The majority of premature global deaths due to NCDs occur in low- and middle-income countries, which make up the largest part of the Commonwealth membership. The impacts of NCDs go beyond the health and wellbeing of individuals, presenting a major challenge to sustainable development across all member states.

Children and youth will be central to an effective response to the global epidemic of NCDs. Not only do a significant number of children and young people die from NCDs, but the vast majority of behaviours that underlie NCDs start during adolescence. We believe it is crucial that the roadmap recognizes the importance of taking a lifecourse approach, underpinned by strong partnerships and multisectoral action. In recognition of this, we would also like to see a specific emphasis on prevention and treatment of NCDs for children and young people in the roadmap.

We would also like to emphasize the importance of taking steps to address the specific needs of vulnerable groups such as young people living with disabilities, caregivers, those experiencing homelessness, and forcibly displaced populations. Protecting these groups against prevalent NCD risk factors will require a comprehensive and integrated response from member states and other actors.

Finally, young people are not just beneficiaries of policies and interventions – they can also be powerful actors in preventing NCDs. For sustainable change, meaningful youth participation and partnership should be at the heart of action on NCDs.

**Specific Recommendations**

*Include a specific emphasis on prevention and treatment of NCDs for children and young people*

- In paragraph 2: include recognition of the number of children and young people living with or affected by NCDs and reference the importance of addressing risk factors during adolescence
• In paragraph 13: The NCD target and indicator (SDG 3.4) does not discriminate by age - the Montevideo Roadmap must recognise that premature disability and death attributable to NCDs also affects children and young people in order to effectively address and assess these targets across the life course.

Add recognition of the need for a lifecourse approach when addressing NCDs
• In paragraphs 5, 7 and 12: mention an inclusive lifecourse approach and/or the goal being relevant across the lifecourse
• In paragraph 8: add “for all - at all ages, including children, adolescents, young people and older age groups.”
• In paragraph 13: change ‘gender-based approaches’ to “gender and age-based approaches”
• In paragraph 26: make “children” “children, adolescents, and young people”

Add recognition of the special needs and vulnerabilities of children and young people
• In paragraph 10: acknowledge other special health care needs and vulnerabilities too
• In paragraph 17: add “adolescents and young adults are particularly vulnerable to behavioural risk factors” and
• In paragraph 20: also recognise the importance of addressing the needs of young people who may not be in school or employment, and are therefore harder to reach

For further information, please contact Lucy Fagan, CYHN Global Coordinator, at cyhn@commonwealth.int