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Statement on 5th July for the interactive hearing as part of the preparatory process for the 3rd UN high-level meeting on NCDs and Mental Health

We cannot over emphasise the need for Health Financing to enable the implementation of NCDs and Mental Health action plans at country levels.

Since we are recommending multi-sectoral approach as part of the solution, what are the non-health fora that NCDs and Mental Health can be discussed to get more visibility? How can we also achieve the same within the health sector i.e. working with other disease and care areas to enable an integrated healthcare system. We need to engage Health Insurance providers on the importance of the provision for NCDs and Mental Health and determine ways to achieve domestic resource mobilisation for health system strengthening which includes NCDs and Mental Health.

I suggest that as part of the high-level meeting in September, we ask Heads of State and governments to task Ministries of Finance to lead the initiative of determining how NCDs and Mental Health can be funded. The Ministries of Finance should set targets and develop impact measurement in conjunction with the Health Sector. This is critical as NCDs and Mental Health have a huge impact on the workforce and economic development of any given country.

It is critical that targets, interventions and monitoring address NCDs and Mental Health from childhood. One additional intervention that all governments can implement now that doesn’t require much resources is: to introduce compulsory daily Physical Education as part of the curriculum for all schools for ages 4 to 16 years old. This will address the target of Physical Activity for children.

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Director, Strategic Partnerships

Abt Associates

5th July, 2018