The Coalition for Access to NCD Medicines and Products is pleased to be able to provide input during this exciting time and critical moment for the non-communicable disease (NCD) community.

Strong political leadership is critical as we strive to realize the potential of the high-level meeting as a pivotal point that accelerates action on NCDs. We encourage all member states to send high-level representation to the meeting and commit to meaningful action that builds on progress to date such as the agreement on best buys and other evidenced based interventions including sugar sweetened beverage taxation to tackle non-communicable diseases. As the leading cause of death and disability worldwide, overcoming the challenges presented by NCDs is fundamental to realizing the promise of universal health coverage.

Access to essential medicines and products to diagnose and treat NCDs particularly at lower levels of care is essential to prevent complications and reduce the health and economic impact of these diseases. As such, access to essential medicines and products is critical to achieving universal health coverage. Despite being a WHO best-buy for prevention and control of NCDs, essential medicines and products often remain unavailable or unaffordable for those who need them. We are very encouraged to see language supporting access to quality, affordable medicines and products in the zero draft of the outcome document, and we implore member states to ensure this language is featured in the final outcome document from the high-level meeting.

The Coalition for Access to NCD Medicines and products is made up of 23 organizations and 9 individual members from NGOs, academia, private sector and governments. As a multi-sectoral coalition, we are also very supportive of the call to forge constructive multi-stakeholder partnerships and alliances that mobilize and share knowledge, and provide services. Capitalizing on the comparative advantages of a broad set of stakeholders is critical to driving forward people-centered investments in policies, financing mechanisms, and systems that reliably and affordably deliver quality medicines to people living with NCDs.