Health Justice Philippines:

Health Justice Philippines has been in the forefront of implementing Article 5.3 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). The tobacco industry can never be part of the solution. There is a fundamental conflict of interest between the tobacco industry and public health and universal health care. Health Justice Philippines recommends that governments do not stop being vigilant about the interference of tobacco companies.

Engagement with the private sector is tricky. Health Justice is advocating strong rules regarding conflict of interest to protect public health policies from commercial interests. Aside from the tobacco industry, governments should also resist pressures from the pharmaceutical industry producing medicinal drugs for NCDs and the food and beverage industry that manufacture sugar sweetened beverages (SSB) or the new face of the tobacco industry as a nicotine vaping e-cigarette industry.

Health Justice further recommends to add the term “Health Promotion” in the HLM document as part of the overall strategy of prevention, treatment and control of NCDs.

In the discussion of multi sectoral partnership, Health Justice advocates not only the active participation of people living with NCDs but also the participation and involvement of families, communities and villages where people living with NCDs reside, most especially among indigenous peoples.

Regarding accountabilities, let there be shorter periods of reporting of progress, monitoring and evaluation of what has been done. Together with the Global Alliance on NCDs, we recommend the next High Level Meeting be on 2022 instead of 2025.

Thank you very much for this opportunity.