Statement by Vital Strategies for the UN interactive hearing on NCDs
Thursday 5 July 2018

We have heard leaders call on donors. We have heard civil society organizations call on leaders. We’ve heard representatives from the private sector calling on governments. And we have heard governments calling on people to take action.

Colleagues- we have created a virtuous yet vicious cycle of shirking responsibility.

Let us be clear on two points, so as to avoid any ambiguity in the report of the hearing:

1. Governments must do their jobs and develop and implement coherent prevention and control policies. You know what to do. Do it.

2. Create an independent accountability mechanism on NCDs. Anything less than a clear commitment at the high-level meeting to do so will be a failure. Creating this independent accountability mechanism is a recommendation of the WHO Independent High-level Commission on NCDs, and a longstanding priority of the NCD Alliance. More importantly, it is the backbone of success in public health. Without an independent accountability mechanism, we will continue to make marginal changes at the fringes of public health, whilst convincing ourselves that our progress is far more significant than it actually is.

Thank you.