

Statement by Japan

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Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour to address this Assembly on behalf of the Government of Japan on the occasion of the Fourth High-Level Meeting on NCDs, Mental Health and Well-being. Japan supports the draft political declaration, which advances global agenda on NCDs and mental health and well-being in the spirit of solidarity. We extend our sincere appreciation to the tireless efforts of the co-facilitators, Luxembourg and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Today, I would like to highlight three key points.

First, I would like to touch upon Japan's approach to health promotion and NCDs. In Japan, demographic change, ageing, and evolving lifestyles have heightened awareness of the need for stronger action against NCDs. Coupled with our universal health coverage system, these efforts have enabled Japan to achieve one of the world's highest levels of healthy life expectancy.

We have learned that NCDs prevention requires a *life-course approach*—supporting health from childhood through older age. Equally vital are strong partnerships: between national and local governments, across health, welfare, education, and economic sectors, and with civil society and the private sector. This became

possible under the overall nation-wide framework called “Health Japan 21.” By embedding NCDs strategies into local planning, legislation, and community services, Japan has sought to ensure that national policies translate into tangible improvements in people’s lives.

Second, I would like to highlight the importance of universal health coverage or UHC. Sustained NCDs and mental health care is impossible without resilient health systems and reliable domestic financial resource mobilization. Japan remains committed to advancing UHC both at home and globally. As a concrete initiative, we are working with the WHO and the World Bank to launch “the UHC Knowledge Hub” to strengthen health financing and build the capacities of policymakers in finance and health authorities in low- and middle-income countries. On December 6th this year, we will convene the UHC High-Level Forum to advance this momentum.

Third, I would like to highlight the International Cooperation on NCDs. Japan has long supported NCDs and mental health initiatives through the WHO, Japan International Cooperation Agency and other partners. We assist countries in Africa, Asia, the Pacific, and Latin America to strengthen NCDs prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Our cooperation includes building medical infrastructure, enhancing screening programmes, and supporting nutrition improvement across the life course.

Japan will continue to collaborate with partners around the world, share both its successes and its challenges, and to learn from the experiences of other countries, as we work together to advance NCDs prevention and control worldwide.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.