

FHWC response to Zero Draft of the 2025 Political Declaration on NCDs and Mental Health:

Health workers are essential to addressing NCDs - improving outcomes, saving lives, and contributing to economic growth and global health security

June 6, 2025

The Frontline Health Workers Coalition welcomes the Zero Draft of the 2025 Political Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) and Mental Health (version dated 13 May 2025). We commend the draft's strong integration of mental health across commitments, its emphasis on strengthening primary health care and health systems, and the recognition of the links between health and economic development. We also appreciate the attention given to addressing NCDs and mental health in humanitarian settings and other crisis contexts.

However, we are deeply concerned by the weak language regarding investments in the health workforce. Health workers are at the heart of effective responses to NCDs and mental health conditions, and are essential to delivering quality health services. The WHO projects a global shortfall of 11 million health workers by 2030, underscoring the urgent need for bold and sustained investment in human resources for health. Without this, the achievement of NCD, mental health, and broader health goals will remain out of reach.

We therefore urge Member States to strengthen the language on health workforce investments in future drafts of the Declaration. A detailed set of proposed revisions to specific paragraphs is [attached](#) for consideration.