



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN**
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 66TH SESSION
**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NON-
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr. President,

It has become apparent that non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have substantial negative impacts on human health and development. Demographic trends such as ageing, rapid unplanned urbanization, and the globalization of unhealthy lifestyles only point to a rise in NCD incidence. Furthermore, NCDs now impose their greatest burden on low- and middle-income countries, effectively hitting those with the least capacity to cope the hardest. For many, effective treatment costs for NCDs are too high, either placing access to healthcare out of reach, or effectively pushing those who do receive treatment closer to or even under the poverty line. If we are seriously committed to achieving sustainable development and the MDGs by 2015, we must step up to this enormous challenge now.

Mr. President,

Liechtenstein welcomes the political declaration adopted yesterday, with its strong focus on prevention and population-wide measures that make it easier for people to adopt healthy lifestyles. The implementation of the declaration will require multi-sectoral action on the behavioral, environmental, social and economic factors contributing to NCDs. Integrative planning and care for NCDs, overall health system strengthening, in addition to targeted interventions, will be essential. We welcome activities promoted in the political declaration that contribute to this end.

The importance of setting global targets and indicators is a lesson learned from international agreements like the MDGs. In calling on the World Health Organization to develop a comprehensive global monitoring framework for NCDs by 2012, the international community has made clear its commitment to addressing NCDs.

Mr. President,

We are happy to see the issue of indoor air pollution due to inefficient cooking stoves addressed in the political declaration. Day after day, women and children suffer disproportionately from exposure to indoor concentrations of toxins from cooking fires. This smoke contributes to a range of chronic illnesses and acute health impacts such as early childhood pneumonia, emphysema, cataracts, lung cancer, bronchitis, cardiovascular disease, and low birth weight, affecting nearly 3 billion people worldwide, and resulting in 1.9 million premature deaths annually. Simple, affordable solutions exist. Alongside the Women's Refugee Commission, OCHA, and the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, Liechtenstein is actively engaged in raising awareness on this issue.

Mr. President,

In Liechtenstein, prevention and control of NCDs is being addressed in a variety of ways. Foremost, healthcare insurance is mandatory for everyone living in Liechtenstein, including children. From birth to age 9, the insurance includes a series of preventative check-ups undertaken by a family pediatrician. The Office of Health has focused extensively on promoting proper nutrition, including through the provision of counseling. The national campaign 'live consciously', has taken up initiatives to address nutrition and exercise, mental health, and health in workplaces. In addition, health education in schools raises awareness on issues such as healthy nutrition, movement, addictive behavior and sexuality. The Schools Office has also taken steps to further incorporate physical activity into lesson plans, starting at the Kindergarten level.

Mr. President,

This High-level meeting comes at a crucial time where we can still achieve health and development goals that we have agreed to. We are confident that the focus on accessible and cost-effective preventative measures coupled with the development of new global framework for NCDs provides a strong foundation for a comprehensive global response to NCDs.

I thank you.