[Name and Adress of your organization]

[Recipient address]

**Prioritizing cardiovascular health at the upcoming fourth UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs and Mental Health**

Your Excellency [Name]

I am pleased to contact you on behalf of [your organization name] concerning the upcoming UN High-Level Meeting on Non-communicable Diseases (UN HLM on NCDs) and Mental Health.

CVD remains the single greatest threat to global health, causing over 20 million premature deaths every year, many of them entirely preventable. Beyond the human toll, CVD is a devastating obstacle to development and productivity, compounding a cycle of poverty, loss of productivity and inequality particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

The upcoming fourth UN HLM on NCDs and Mental Health is a critical opportunity to deliver an ambitious and actionable political declaration that reflects the scale of the CVD burden and sets a clear path forward. We encourage you to ensure the following actions and interventions are included in the final Political Declaration and national implementation plans:

**Hypertension is the leading risk factor for CVD. Yet only 1 in 5 people have their blood pressure under control.**

* We strongly recommend including a target for 50% hypertension control by 2030, through expanding access to hypertension treatment to 500 million more people by 2030. Hypertension services need to be integrated within primary health care and delivered through task sharing models in settings with constrained human resources for health.

**Tobacco, alcohol and sugary drinks drive the CVD epidemic. Yet most countries still under-tax harmful products missing a critical opportunity to save lives and strengthen health systems.**

* We urge you to support the adoption of a minimum 50% excise tax on tobacco, alcohol and sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs). Revenue raised should be ring-fenced for health system strengthening and financial protection.

**Air pollution is responsible for approximately 4.5 million CVD deaths annually, most of them entirely preventable if urgent action is taken to curb emissions**.

* We recommend adopting and implementing the 2021 WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines. Countries should set national targets aligned WHO recommended levels for PM, O₃, NO₂, and SO₂ and invest in air quality monitoring.

**CVD hits the hardest where care is unaffordable or out of reach. Millions still face financial hardship and catastrophic costs to access cardiovascular health services.**

* Expanding Universal Health Coverage and integrating cardiovascular services into national health benefit packages is one of the most urgent actions to reduce catastrophic out-of-pocket costs for hypertension, stroke and heart failure and promote equity. This must be accompanied by increased budget allocations specifically for CVD.

**Millions of children, adolescents and older adults remain invisible in current global goals. NCD targets have not kept pace with the rise in NCD and CVD in different age groups.**

* We recommend broadening and strengthening NCD targets, moving beyond the 30-70 age bracket, to include children, adolescents and older adults and commit to reducing NCD mortality and morbidity by 50% across all age groups by 2050.

Developing and implementing a standalone national cardiovascular health action plan is essential to translate these commitments into tangible progress. The World Heart Federation (WHF) has launched a [**global petition**](https://world-heart-federation.org/sign-the-petition/) calling for such a plan, supported by policymakers, health professionals, civil society and people living with cardiovascular conditions around the world. We urge you to endorse this call and champion its inclusion in the outcome of the 2025 UN High-Level Meeting.

We invite you to consult [WHF’s website](http://www.worldheart.org) for additional resources and more detailed comments to the draft political declaration.

Thank you for your commitment to advancing the global response to CVD. We are ready to support you in the lead-up to the UN HLM on NCDs and mental health and to work together to ensure that bold political commitments translate into meaningful action to prevent premature deaths, protect the most vulnerable and change the trajectory of the global CVD epidemic.

Best regards,

[Add your signature]