



WHO Executive Board 156th session
February 2025

Pillar 1: One billion more people benefiting from universal health coverage

**Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the
General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases
(item 7)**

Honourable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

The World Medical Association underscores the urgent need to address non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through robust health systems and a well-supported health workforce. NCDs, driven by social and commercial determinants, demand targeted investments in Universal Health Coverage, including prevention, primary care, access to essential medicines, and evidence-based policies grounded in equity and sustainability.

As we approach the Fourth High-level Meeting of the United Nations, we stress that investment in well-trained, professionally educated, adequately equipped health and safeguarded workforce is vital to achieving the global NCD agenda. Without it, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and rehabilitation efforts cannot succeed. A transformative political declaration must prioritise a qualified health workforce investment as a cornerstone of resilient, equitable health systems.

Thank you