



66th World Health Assembly, May 2013

Statement by Sri Lanka

Agenda item 13 : Non communicable diseases – The Global Monitoring Framework

Mr Chairman,

The rapid spread of Non-Communicable diseases throughout the world has threatened populations and become an obstacle to national development. With NCDs claiming more than 36 million people each year, and with nearly 80% of those deaths occurring in low and middle-income countries, it is evident that the world needs to act fast.

Sri Lanka is among many other countries around the world that has a large population that suffers from non communicable diseases. Physical inactivity, bad food habits, smoking, and alcohol consumption remain, leading causes for this prevalence. NCDs currently account for 85% of DALYs, becoming the largest contributor toward the country's disease burden. Which is why the country has embarked on national initiatives to strategically prevent and control the spread of NCDS.

In April last year President Mahinda Rajapaksa launched the national Mihi Meth Suwa Program pinpointing the alleviation of malnutrition and toward the control of non communicable diseases. At the beginning of this year the Ministry of Health announced that it was working to ensure that 2013 would be the Year for Prevention of Non Communicable Diseases. As means of achieving this goal, the government has allocated the sum of Rs. 3 billion toward this initiative.

Apart from these developments, Mr Chairman, a strategic focus has also been placed on health-conscious infrastructure development in the country, with the advancement of special walk-way and jogging lanes, giving rise to healthier exercise-conscious lifestyles.

In this regard Mr Chairman,

Sri Lanka believes that the comprehensive global monitoring framework, will only assist to strengthen national capacities and reduce the burden of NCDs around the globe. It is however of utmost importance that the global monitoring framework be considered in relation to national situations, current national initiatives, national targets and indicators, in order to be an effective tool for Member States.

In conclusion Mr Chairman,

Sri Lanka appreciates the work carried out by the WHO throughout the finalization process of the global monitoring framework and look forward to its adoption at the WHA. Sri Lanka also remains committed toward working together with the WHO to ensure the prevention and control of NCDs. And we further recognize the importance of placing NCDs on the post 2015 development agenda discussions in order to effectively address this issue in the future.

Thank You.