

The Fourth UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs and Mental Health

Panel 1: Tackling the determinants of noncommunicable diseases and mental health and well-being through multisectoral and effective governance and collaborative action

The International Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research and the FDI World Dental Federation, representing over 10,000 researchers and 1 million dentists respectively, thank governments for recognizing oral health within the Political Declaration. This marks an important step toward closing persistent gaps in global NCD policy. We urge governments to retain and strengthen this language within their national plans and ensure its translation into tangible action.

Oral diseases, which affect more than 3.7 billion people worldwide, are the most prevalent NCDs and share common, modifiable risk factors with other major NCDs including tobacco use, alcohol consumption, and diets high in free sugars. These conditions are deeply rooted in the broader social and commercial determinants of health, such as poverty, inequitable access to services, and the aggressive marketing of harmful products. We call on governments to take bold, multisectoral action to address these upstream drivers. This includes implementing fiscal measures such as health-promoting taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages, tobacco, and alcohol to reduce population risk, raise revenue, and strengthen health systems.

As detailed in our joint advocacy document *No Health Without Oral Health*, we also urge governments to:

- Integrate oral health into national NCD strategies, primary healthcare, and UHC benefit packages;
- Expand oral health promotion and prevention, particularly for underserved populations;
- Include oral health indicators in national health data and surveillance systems;
- Invest in implementation research and workforce capacity-building to support evidence-based health systems.

The WHO Global Oral Health Action Plan provides a comprehensive framework and the

Bangkok Declaration further reinforces this mandate. Now is the time to act because there is no health without oral health, and no health equity without addressing its structural determinants.

Thank you.

Duration: 2 mins 30 secs.
294 words, 1772 characters.