

6. 80th UN General Assembly Declaration– Science & Technology

World leaders adopt a historic global declaration on noncommunicable diseases and mental health. At the 80th UN General Assembly, world leaders adopted a historic declaration integrating Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and mental health, establishing specific "Fast Track" targets for 2030 to reduce disease burden. This marks a shift towards an equity-driven global health approach that addresses broader determinants, including environmental factors and digital health risks.

80th UN General Assembly (UNGA) Historic Declaration

Event- At the 80th UN General Assembly, world leaders adopted a historic political declaration.

Focus- The declaration addresses Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Mental Health.

Significance- This marks a critical moment in global health governance, recognizing the interconnectedness of physical and mental well-being.

Global Burden of the Problem

The declaration responds to a crisis of immense scale affecting mortality, morbidity, and economics.

Mortality- NCDs are responsible for 18 million premature deaths annually worldwide.

Mental Health Crisis- Mental health conditions affect over one billion people globally, establishing them as a major public health priority.

Key Risk Factors- The primary drivers of this burden include Unhealthy diets, Tobacco use, Harmful alcohol consumption, Physical inactivity, Air pollution (adverse effects on both physical and mental well-being)

Socio-Economic Impact- The rising burden hinders public health, productivity, and sustainable economic growth across all nations.

About the Declaration

Official Title- "Equity and integration- transforming lives and livelihoods through leadership and action on noncommunicable diseases and the promotion of mental health and well-being".

Historic Milestone- It is the first global political declaration to jointly address NCDs and mental health.

Paradigm Shift- Marks a decisive move towards a fully integrated and equity-driven global health approach.

Framework- Establishes time-bound, specific, and measurable global targets for 2030 to accelerate action.

Global Fast Track Targets (Outcome Targets)

The declaration sets three concrete "Fast Track" goals to be achieved by 2030

1. 150 million fewer tobacco users.
2. 150 million more people with hypertension under control.
3. 150 million more people with access to mental health care.

System-Level Process Targets (By 2030)

To achieve the outcomes, structural benchmarks were set for countries to meet-

Target Area	Goal (By 2030)
Policy Measures	At least 80% of countries adopting policy, legislative, regulatory, and fiscal measures.
Healthcare Access	At least 80% of primary healthcare facilities having access to affordable, WHO-recommended essential medicines and basic technologies for NCDs and mental health.
Financial Protection	At least 60% of countries implementing measures to cover or limit costs of essential NCD and mental health services.
National Plans	At least 80% of countries having operational, multisectoral national plans for NCDs and mental health.
Surveillance	At least 80% of countries establishing robust surveillance and monitoring systems.

Expanded Scope of the Declaration

This declaration significantly widens the traditional scope of NCD management.

New Disease Areas- Oral health, Lung health, Childhood cancer, Liver and kidney diseases, Rare diseases

Environmental Determinants- Addresses broader factors such as Air pollution, Clean cooking fuels, Lead exposure, Hazardous chemicals

Digital Health Risks- Recognizes modern challenges including Excessive screen time, Harmful online content, social media exposure, Misinformation and disinformation

Regulatory Commitments- Stronger focus on E-cigarettes and novel tobacco products. Regulation of unhealthy food marketing to children. Implementation of Front-of-pack food labelling. Elimination of industrial trans fats.

Equity Commitments- Emphasizes the needs of vulnerable groups People living with NCDs and mental health conditions. Climate-vulnerable populations. Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Populations in humanitarian settings.

Financing and Governance Approach

Fiscal Challenges- Recognizes that global fiscal constraints are threatening health financing.

Funding Strategy- Calls for adequate, predictable, and sustained funding via Increased domestic financing. Strengthened international partnerships. Coordinated multilateral frameworks.

Strategic Positioning- Positions NCDs and mental health as core components of sustainable development and social justice.

Collaborative Approach- Advocates for a "Whole-of-Government" and "Whole-of-Society" approach, involving Civil society, Youth, Persons with disabilities, Individuals with lived experience

Accountability Mechanism

Reporting- The UN Secretary-General is mandated to report on progress towards the 2030 targets ahead of the next High-Level Meeting.

Support- WHO and other UN agencies will assist Member States in translating these global commitments into tangible national action plans.

Source- <https://www.who.int/news/item/16-12-2025-world-leaders-adopt-a-historic-global-declaration-on-noncommunicable-diseases-and-mental-health#~~~text=Titled%20%22Equity%20and%20integration%3A%20transforming>