

Reaffirmation of Commitment

Determined to give priority to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

Recalling the Port of Spain Declaration adopted by the CARICOM Heads of Government in 2007 and its 27 commitments to address the noncommunicable disease epidemic in the region;

Recognizing with concern that the burden of noncommunicable diseases continues to have a significant negative impact on countries' social and economic development as well as severely compromises the possibility of countries advancing towards universal access to health and universal health coverage;

Alarmed by the burden of noncommunicable diseases in the Caribbean which in 2010 represented 78% of all deaths and 76% of all premature deaths in people aged 30-69 years;

Recalling also the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases adopted by Heads of State and Government in 2011, which included a roadmap of concrete commitments to promote, establish or support and strengthen national policies and plans for the prevention and control of NCDs, and the Outcome Document of the 2014 comprehensive review and assessment of the progress made in the implementation of these commitments;

Acknowledging the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020 which sets out nine concrete global NCD targets for 2025 and comprises a set of actions which when performed collectively by countries and international partners, aims to achieve a global target of a 25% reduction in premature mortality from NCDs by 2025 and the commitments made by the world leaders in September 2011;

Affirming the strategies and lines of action set out in the PAHO Plan of Action on the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013-2019 which reinforces the Global and Regional commitments, the Plan of Action for the Prevention of Obesity in Children and Adolescents and the Strategy for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage which sets out a series of actions to strengthen health services that can have an impact on NCDs and their determinants;

Seriously concerned that up to half of the Caribbean countries will not be able to report progress to the WHO's Global Monitoring Framework on NCDs and unless decisive action is urgently taken, will not reach the agreed global targets for reducing premature mortality from NCDs by 2025;

Taking note of the need for utilizing a multisectoral and multistakeholder approach for addressing the threat of NCDs, including for financing national responses and action plans;

We, the participants meeting in Barbados on Tuesday 9 June 2015, at the Forum of Key Stakeholders on NCDs: Advancing the NCD Agenda in the Caribbean:

Reaffirm the importance of the commitments set out in the Port of Spain Declaration, the 2011 United Nations General Assembly Political Declaration and the Outcome of the 2014 Review;

Assert that there is the urgent need to jointly tackle NCDs as the greatest health and development challenge both at the national and the regional level;

Recommend a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to effectively address NCDs, their related risk factors and social determinants in the Caribbean;

Emphasize the need for prioritized investment in primary healthcare, strengthening health systems and surveillance and data collection systems, in particular for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases including through bilateral and regional cooperation and the support of international development partners and inter-governmental organizations;

Urge that the prevention and control of NCDs remain high on the Caribbean political agenda as inaction will limit and possibly reverse the development gains of the region, and commit to remaining engaged in this regard.

Bridgetown, Barbados, 9 June 2015