### WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION ENGAGEMENTS

#### Saturday, 25 May and Sunday, 26 May
- Gender Equality Forum - Plenary Discussion: Forging a Path to Inclusive, Sustainable and Peaceful Societies – Tour 5 – Inclusive Health Solutions
  - 10:00 – 17:00, Nelson’s Dockyard National Park

#### Monday, 27 May
- Official opening of the Conference and the first plenary meeting
  - 10:00 – 13:00, Plenary Hall
- Delivering Universal Eye Care
  - 12:00 – 13:30
- Delivering concrete solutions for SIDS through the FAO Global Roadmap: Achieving SDG2 without breaching the 1.5 C threshold
  - 14:00-15:30, Room 8

#### Tuesday, 28 May 2024
- By SIDS, for SIDS: Next Decade of Action on NCDs and Mental Health
  - 14:00 – 15:30, Room 2
  - 16:00 – 18:00

#### Wednesday, 29 May 2024
- Digital Transformation for Resilience in the Eastern Caribbean: From crisis to opportunities
  - 8:00 – 9:30, Room 9
- Smart hospitals addressing emergencies and climate change: a strategy for SIDS
  - 10:00 – 1:30, Room 7
- Interactive Dialogue 3 - Making climate finance work for small island developing States
  - 11:00 – 13:00
- Overcoming the Leading Cause of Youth Mortality: Strengthening Emergency Care Systems
  - 14:00 – 15:30, Room 7
- Interactive Dialogue 4 - Leveraging Data and Digital Technologies and Building Effective Institutions for a Resilient Future in SIDS
  - 16:00 – 18:00

#### Thursday, 30 May 2024
- Interactive dialogue 5 - Investing in human capital: addressing health crises in small island developing States and building the potential of youth in small island developing States
  - 11:00 – 13:00
- A moment of Declaration – reporting back from special events and closing plenary
  - 14:00 – 17:30
- Walk the Talk
  - 17:30
Health systems of most SIDS have decades of underinvestment, limited capacities, and persistent gaps in health-related data and statistical capacities, which requires attention and investment.

It is important that the international community supports the SIDS in their efforts to strengthen their health systems, including through enhanced official development assistance and financial and technical support, as well as support for research, development and innovation programmes.

SIDS are on the frontline of many health threats, particularly, in the areas of noncommunicable diseases and mental health, with consequences for premature mortality and threats to livelihoods and wellbeing.

SIDS have disproportionately high rates of obesity, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, and chronic respiratory conditions.

Up to 15% of the population in the Caribbean and 11% in the Pacific are estimated to live with a mental health condition. The unique situation, gaps, and challenges that SIDS face with respect to mental health, including the effects of climate change, limited data and human resources, require expressed, institutional, and budgetary commitments by governments.

It is urgent to enhance promotion, prevention, early detection measures, management and control and prioritize the integration of NCD and mental health into primary health care service packages, and the achievement of universal health coverage.

Member States have committed to taking bold SIDS-specific action to accelerate progress to reduce by one third premature mortality from NCDs through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and well-being, by 2030 (SDG target 3.4) as expressed in the 2023 Bridgetown Declaration on NCDs and mental health and through individual country commitments in an online portal. SIDS actions on health provide critical inputs into the fourth UN high-level meeting on NCDs in 2025.

Limited consumption of fruits and vegetables and reliance on imported foods in SIDS, in some cases up to 90%, has seen a rise in the consumption of highly processed food and drink products which are often energy dense and high in saturated fats, free sugars or salt, exacerbating dietary risk factors for NCDs. This has resulted in Pacific island countries accounting for 9 out of the top 10 countries in the world with the highest prevalence of obesity among both women and men.

Accelerated action is needed to develop and implement cross-sectoral food system policies aimed at increasing local food production and promoting healthy diets (including breastfeeding) and food and nutrition security and integrate them into policies for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and including efforts to address commercial determinants of health.

While they represent just 1% of the world's population and economy and emit less than 1% of greenhouse gases, SIDS are disproportionately and severely affected by climate change, rising sea levels, and natural disasters.

Meaningful action on health and climate means overhauling financing to unlock billions in joint investment in climate action, good health and wellbeing, while allowing for more sustainable debt servicing by developing countries.

Measures are required to educate, employ, protect and retain health workers, and to manage migration ethically in line with the WHO Global code of practice on international recruitment of health personnel.

It is important to explore culturally appropriate digital health promotion and integrate digital and tele-health services in primary care services to support the prevention, detection and early treatment of NCDs and mental health conditions.

The existing technology channels and digital initiatives in SIDS should be leveraged to counter misinformation and improve knowledge and skills of healthcare professionals, as well as address disaster risk reduction.