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**Statement of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
The Sixty-Six Session of the General Assembly**

High-Level Meeting of The General Assembly  
On the Prevention and Control of Non-  
Communicable Diseases

By:

H.R.H. Prince

Dr. Torki bin Mohamed bin Saud Al Kabeer  
Undersecretary for Multi Relations Affairs

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## **Your Excellency, President of the United Nations General Assembly**

### **Distinguished Gathering**

I would like to congratulate your Excellency for assuming the Presidency of the UN General Assembly in its sixty sixth meeting wishing you and the brotherly state of Qatar continuous success.

#### **Mr. President,**

The holding of this high level meeting on the prevention and control of non-infectious diseases constitutes a good opportunity to review the efforts exerted in the prevention of such diseases, and the strengthening of international cooperation in combating its spread, Within this context, Saudi Arabia supports all international endeavors aiming at confronting such diseases and continue to dedicate efforts and resources at the national and international levels. Saudi Arabian measures in this regard included:

- The establishment of a General Directorate for Non-infectious Diseases in 2003 entrusted with setting up plans and strategies to combat these diseases.
- Launching of a number of programs aiming at preventing non-infectious diseases that are most prevalent in Saudi society such as the Prevention From Diabetic Diseases program– the Cancer Prevention program – the Nutrition and Physical Activity program – the Heart and Artery Diseases Prevention program – the Healthy Marriage program – the Early Examination of Newly-born program – The Health Crown Prevention program – the Accident and Injury Prevention program – the Detection of Risk Elements of Non-infectious Diseases Prevention program – the Osteoporosis program.
- Adopting and implementing national plans and strategies for such programs.
- Establishing national committees for non-infectious diseases by governmental and non-governmental entities connected with prevention programs.
- Conducting several field studies at the national level to assess the spread of non-infectious diseases and its risks and causes in cooperation with the World Health Organization.
- Providing support and assistance to Primary Care institutions in the field of combating non-infectious diseases.
- Setting up of functional guidelines for some of these programs.
- The training and developing of skills of the personnel involved in combating non-infectious diseases and in patient's care through special training courses addressing the different programs.

- Launching of national campaigns to promote awareness among the populace such as “How is Your Diabetes” program to increase alertness to this disease, “Your Health is Worth the World” program to promote nutrition and physical activity, “My Children Are Healthy Because I Conducted the Tests” program which is dedicated for the healthy marriage, and “Salama Wishes You Safety” program to promote prevention from injuries and accidents. Awareness bulletins and brochures on such programs were also distributed nation-wide.
- Establishing a computerized registration system to monitor non-infectious diseases and record cases of cancer and diabetes among those about to wed. Similar registration systems are being contemplated for other programs.
- Strengthening coordination and cooperation between the public and private sectors (i.e. philanthropic societies) in the combating of non-infectious diseases.

At the international level, the Kingdom was keen at attending regional and international conferences and meetings such as the Ministerial Meeting of Health Ministers of the Cooperation Council for the Arab Gulf States and the World Health Organization among others.

**Thank you Mr. President**