***Delegation from Represented by***

**South Korea John Abbott College**

**World Health Organization**

With focus on outbreaks of Ebola and Zika in the media being especially prevalent recently, there is no better time for the World Health Organization to review what is a matter of concern and where the UN can intervene to save lives.

South Korea sees many areas for reform to improve the situation of non-communicable diseases. As a strong example of the benefits of universal health care, South Korea wants to encourage the strengthening of primary health care in low- and middle-income countries to incite the population to regularly see a medical professional about their current health status. To help achieve a stronger healthcare system, South Korea's goal is to increase budget allocations, especially for NCDs, as mentioned in the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Comprehensive Review and Assessment of the Progress Achieved in the Prevention and Control of NCDs in 2014[[1]](#footnote-1). As for preventative measures for the increase of NCDs in LMICs, South Korea would like to reform the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health[[2]](#footnote-2), adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2004 to include forms of promoting physical activity outside of mass media, so that it is more accessible to people in low-income countries with less exposure to mainstream media.

South Korea believes that proposing a surcharge on tobacco would be beneficial to each country in two ways: one, it could be used towards a plan for universal healthcare or insurance, as it is in South Korea[[3]](#footnote-3), and two, the increase in price would discourage its use, which is a common factor for the development of NCDs.

Another issue is the funding of the public sector of pharmaceuticals in low-income countries. South Korea believes standardizing pharmaceutical sale prices at an international level would help lower prices in low-income countries, and therefore divert avoidable deaths for people with chronic illnesses, who need to pay large sums regularly for their medication. South Korea realizes that economic, generic brands would be beneficial to these countries, and would like to create awareness for these brands among those administering pharmaceuticals in these underdeveloped countries.

Finally, in addressing health disparity between genders on a global scale, South Korea maintains that making resources available for help in mental health and sexual health should be a priority. Now knowing where mental health professionals are most needed[[4]](#footnote-4), the WHO should see into sending professionals to teach overseas in areas where this help is needed. As for sexual health, doctors with specialties such as OB/GYNs should also be included in this trade of information.

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2. "Physical Activity." World Health Organization, n.d. Web. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs385/en/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. "2014 National Health Insurance System of Korea." (n.d.): n. pag. National Health Insurance Service, 2014. Web. <http://www.coopami.org/en/countries/countries/south\_korea/social\_protection/pdf/social\_protection05.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. "WHO | The Mental Health Workforce Gap in Low- and Middle-income Countries: A Needs-based Approach." World Health Organization, n.d. Web. <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/89/3/10-082784/en/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)