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This joint statement aligns with the 2026 High-Level Political Forum theme of advancing transformative, equitable, innovative, and coordinated action toward the Sustainable Development Goals. It highlights the urgent need to accelerate progress in child and adolescent health, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, through scalable innovation, data-driven systems, and sustained global partnerships.

The global commitment made at the 2025 United Nations High-Level Meeting on non-communicable diseases underscores four critical targets: improving access to essential medicines and technologies, strengthening financial protection, implementing multisectoral policies, and advancing surveillance systems. Achieving these targets, alongside SDG3.2 and 3.4, demands integrated approaches that extend beyond health.

Strategic innovation (SDG9) must prioritize affordability and accessibility. This includes the development of low-cost biomedical technologies, decentralized care models, and sustainable material systems that enable local manufacturing and reduce dependency on fragile global supply chains. Cross-sector collaboration, including linkages to water systems, environmental health, and early-life determinants of disease, is essential to ensure that interventions are both preventative and scalable.

Data systems represent a second critical pillar, particularly when they support evidence-based decision making and enable governments to identify high-impact interventions across diverse settings. Investments in interoperable, secure, and inclusive digital health infrastructure, including artificial intelligence-enabled tools, can transform surveillance and care delivery. These systems must function across diverse contexts, including low-resource and conflict-affected settings, ensuring continuity of care and equitable access to health insights (SDGs 6, 7 and 11).

Partnerships (SDG17) remain the foundation of transformative progress. A compelling example is the recent commitment by New Zealand to support implementation of newborn screening for congenital adrenal hyperplasia and congenital hypothyroidism in Tonga. This will build on longstanding collaborations between the Solomon Islands, Australia, Vanuatu and Fiji, and represents a pivotal step for the Pacific region. It demonstrates how targeted investments, regional knowledge sharing, and culturally grounded educational resources can catalyse scalable solutions.

Importantly, there are already plans to expand learnings across neighbouring countries, offering a model for coordinated regional action. Similar partnership-driven approaches are urgently needed in conflict-affected settings such as Sudan, where coordinated efforts can help address the compounded effects of displacement, climate stress, and weakened health systems, particularly for vulnerable populations.

Building on such efforts, we recommend: prioritizing equitable access to essential medicines, diagnostics and technologies through local manufacturing and policy reform; investing in AI-enabled, interoperable data systems; and strengthening cross-sector and cross-country partnerships that centre the needs of children and vulnerable populations.

The pathway to 2030 requires not only innovation, but intentional collaboration. By aligning technology, data, and partnerships with an equity-first approach, and by grounding decisions in evidence and system-level understanding, we can accelerate meaningful progress toward a sustainable and healthy future for all.