



**CLOSING STATEMENT BY**

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**ASIA**

**2009 ECOSOC ANNUAL MINISTERIAL REVIEW REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING**  
**ON NON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND INJURIES**

**11 May 2009, Doha, Qatar**

Honourable Ministers,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the closing of this important regional Ministerial meeting, I would first like to thank the Government of Qatar for their hospitality and the Minister of Health and his staff for their tremendous work and support in organizing this event. Doha has rightfully earned its reputation as a city for intellectual exchange and diplomacy, by successfully hosting important global and regional meetings, including this one, in collaboration with the United Nations and other International Organizations.

I would also like to warmly thank the President of ECOSOC for making time to participate and contribute to this meeting. Her presence attests to the significance of these regional consultations in preparation for the 2009 Annual Ministerial Review to be held in Geneva this July.

The collaboration between the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, underscores the commitment of our organizations to work together and 'Deliver as One' at the national, regional, and global levels in support of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals. Promoting development and the well-being of the populations of this region and our world, is our common agenda.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This meeting would not have been possible without the technical expertise of the moderators and panelists, and the keen interest of participants, representing governments of the region, civil society, and academia.

Our discussions over the last two days have underscored the need to make promoting public health a regional priority. Noncommunicable diseases, including cardiovascular

disease, cancer, and diabetes, are increasingly becoming more prevalent in our region – but this meeting has agreed that prevention strategies can make a real difference. It is unacceptable to allow our youth to continue dying in car accidents, and we must take action today.

The valuable ideas and lessons-learned, emerging from this meeting, require a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach to promoting health. Governments, civil society, and the private sector must work collectively to intervene in schools, in the work place, and in our communities to ensure the long-term well-being and health of our people. Regional strategies and regional collaboration is central to ensure that no country falls behind, and ESCWA is committed to assist in regional efforts to promote economic and social development, including health.

The recommendations emerging from this meeting are undoubtedly a positive first step to combat noncommunicable diseases and injuries, and I look forward to hearing the views and positions of this meeting reflected in the global forum of the Annual Ministerial Review.

We have the scientific know-how to introduce evidence-based policies; all we need now is the political commitment.

Thank you.