



REPUBLIC OF PALAU
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

P.O. Box 6051, Palau, PW 96940
Tel. (680) 767-2403/2828
Fax. (680) 767-2424/1662
Email: president@palaupresident.info

SURANGEL WHIPPS, JR.
President

Executive Order No.: 484

To reconstitute the National Coordinating Mechanism to facilitate and coordinate the Government of the Republic of Palau's efforts to combat the occurrences and impacts of Non-Communicable Disease in the Republic of Palau.

WHEREAS, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are the leading causes of deaths, illness, and disability in the Republic of Palau, undermining health and sustainable development in our small island nation; and

WHEREAS, the global community including the Republic of Palau has recognized the devastating impacts of NCDs and has declared NCDs a crisis; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that two thirds of the effects in responding to NCDs will come from reducing exposure to risk factors through multisectoral initiatives; and

WHEREAS, collaboration across and within all sectors of government and society is key to the mobilization of sufficient resources and essential roles for the effective implementation of the Palau NCD Prevention and Control Strategic Plan and to create environments fostering positive health behavior and outcomes, promote and protect public health, and attain national health targets; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to establish a governance framework that can coordinate strategies and interventions across sectors to address NCDs, allowing stakeholders among these sectors to work together to develop and implement appropriate and effective strategies, policies, and procedures; and

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in the President under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Palau, I hereby direct that the National Coordinating Mechanism be reconstituted as follows:

1. Foundational Documents of the National Coordinating Mechanism.

The National Coordinating Mechanism (NCM) is guided by commitments ("Guiding Principles") to the following:

- (a) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- (b) the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs;
- (c) the Pacific Non-Communicable Disease Roadmap Report;
- (d) the World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC);
- (e) Executive order No. 295 Declaring a State of Health Emergency on Non-Communicable Diseases within the Ministry of Health and Human Services;



- (f) RPPL 9-57 allocating ten-percent (10%) of taxes on alcohol and tobacco to fund the National Coordinating Mechanism for NCDs;
- (g) RPPL 11-8 amending the NCD authorizing statute;
- (h) the Palau NCD Prevention and Control Strategic Plan of Action; and
- (i) this Executive Order.

2. Operational Goals for Implementing the Guiding Principles.

The NCM shall incorporate the following operational goals into its planning and implementation:

- (a) Promote and practice a unified, holistic message of health and wellness (alcohol, tobacco, nutrition, physical activity, & mental health);
- (b) Adopt a value statement defining the NCM's unified holistic message on health and wellness;
- (c) Promote appropriate programs in line with national priorities regarding vulnerable populations;
- (d) Share plans for key and/or major activities with all partners;
- (e) Be flexible, especially in regard to joint implementation and funding;
- (f) Be transparent, especially in regard to resources and activities;
- (g) Create a high trust environment among partners; and
- (h) Respect the independence of partner/member organizations. Partners should retain their mandates and autonomy during the implementation of their programs.

3. Functions and Responsibilities.

The NCM shall carry out the following functions and responsibilities:

- (a) Develop/adopt and/or maintain Terms of Reference for the NCM;
- (b) Facilitate the integration and alignment of the Sustainable Development Goals, Palau NCD Prevention and Control Strategic Plan, related NCD plans and commitments, the WHO FCTC and its guidelines, and national development plans and policies;
- (c) Contribute to intergovernmental commitments pertaining to NCDs;
- (d) Integrate NCD prevention and control in the policies and programs of relevant ministries and government agencies, and civil society organizations/community-based organizations;
- (e) Develop an annual cost NCM action plan to guide its work (based on specific fiscal years);
- (f) Evaluate annual NCM action plan at middle and end of fiscal year;
- (g) Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Palau NCD Prevention and Control Strategic Plan twice yearly;
- (h) Advocate for, administer/manage and oversee funds and other resources to support the functioning of the NCM operations, the Secretariat, and the implementation of Palau NCD Prevention and Control Strategic Plan;
- (i) Develop appropriate internal and external communication processes and ensure uniform communication;
- (j) Develop an explicit code of conduct for how all members of the NCM interact with the tobacco



- and alcohol industries and their representatives;
- (k) Provide a platform for dialogue and development of public policies for NCDs;
- (l) Monitor the implementation of WHO FCTC Article 5.3 on protection of national tobacco control policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry; and
- (m) Compile a written NCM Annual Report on the distribution of the NCD Fund, the entities receiving funds, and the programs supported by NCD distributions. The NCM shall submit said report to the President and Olbiil Era Kelulau in February of each year.

4. NCM Membership.

The Membership of the NCM shall include a representative from the following organizations:

- (a) The Council of Chiefs;
- (b) The Office of the President;
- (c) Ministry of Health and Human Services;
- (d) Ministry of Education;
- (e) Ministry of Human Resources, Culture, Tourism, and Development;
- (f) Ministry of Finance;
- (g) Ministry of Justice;
- (h) Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Environment;
- (i) Palau Community College;
- (j) The Governor's Association;
- (k) Mechesil Belau;
- (l) Belau Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (BANGO);
- (m) Belau Families Schools & Communities Association;
- (n) Palau Community Health Center;
- (o) Palau Community Action Agency;
- (p) Palau National Olympic Committee;
- (q) Belau Cancer Society;
- (r) Coalition for a Tobacco Free Palau;
- (s) DeWill a Klengar Foundation;
- (t) Palau Behavioral Health Advisory Counsel;
- (u) Kotel a Deurreng;
- (v) Palau Resource Institute;
- (w) Palau Conservation Society.

The Membership of the NCM may be amended or expanded, provided that such expansion is approved by a majority vote of the NCM and reported in writing to the President of the Republic of Palau.

5. Organization of the NCM.

Each organization identified above shall appoint a representative to serve a two-year term on the NCM, and such members may be reappointed upon the approval of the appointing organization. Each organization identified above shall endeavor to avoid membership lapsing, and shall appoint a new member to the NCM



within 60 days of the conclusion of an appointed member's term.

The NCM shall affirm a permanent co-chair and appoint a rotating co-chair from civil society and select the members of the Secretariat. The rotating co-chair of the NCM shall serve a 2-year term and may be reappointed upon the majority vote of the civil society/NGO members of the NCM.

6. Secretariat of the NCM.

The NCM shall establish a Secretariat of five members, appointed by the Office of the President, and by the two co-chairs. The Secretariat shall be charged with maintaining minutes of meetings, securing the files, NCD funding applications, and other documents collected or created by the NCM, and facilitating the creation of the NCM Annual Report. The Secretariat shall have other such tasks as are designated by the NCM to support and effectuate the functions and responsibilities outlined herein.

7. Stipends.

The Secretariat and Members of the NCM shall be eligible for an appropriate form of stipend rate of \$50 per day or no less than \$10.00 per hour. Non-government employees engaged in government activities, government employees that cannot be compensated using the normal process, or requiring an overnight stay outside of their normal duty station, or attending training outside of normal or regular scheduled working hours shall be eligible for stipends.

8. Effective Date and Duration.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect unless otherwise amended, superseded, or rescinded.

9. Previous Orders.

Previous orders, involving the creation of the NCM, including Executive Order 379, are hereby rescinded and superseded to the extent that they conflict with this Order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal on the 11th day of July, 2023 at Koror, Republic of Palau.



Surangel S. Whipps Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau