



## **WASH comment – 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

NCD Alliance letter to Ban Ki Moon

Re: UN Member States jeopardise international progress on non-communicable disease epidemic.

As the leading NGO on salt reduction in the UK and worldwide, we very strongly support the NCD alliance letter addressed to Ban Ki-Moon and echo the concerns raised regarding the current state of the preparations for the High Level Meeting in September and the continual dilution of the draft Political Declaration (outcomes document) . It is absolutely essential that the outcomes document has clear targets for tackling the crisis of NCDs – i.e. strokes, heart attacks, cancer, and respiratory disease. It should specify both the reduction in deaths that can be made, and also set clear targets for both tobacco and salt – the major causes of NCDs.

We urge Member States to set an international target of less than 5 grams of salt per person per day by 2025, which will prevent hundreds of thousands of deaths from strokes and heart attacks each year. This is a practical target that can be achieved by all countries around the world, by getting the food industry to slowly reduce the amount of salt they put in the food, and getting consumers to use less salt during cooking and at the table.

We gather that the setting of any targets is being opposed by the EU, Canada and the US – which is very disappointing and short-sighted. The British Government (the UK is leading the world in salt reduction) has the opportunity to take the lead, and could fulfil a very important role to push for salt targets but currently has failed to do so.