WHAT IS ACCOUNTABILITY?
Accountability is a crucial force for political and programmatic change, allowing to track national, regional and global commitments, resources and results of governments and private sector against agreed political commitments and standards. It’s a cyclical process composed of 3 pillars:

1. REVIEW
2. MONITORING
3. ACTION

Provides insights on: WHAT WORKS; WHY IT WORKS; WHAT NEEDS IMPROVING; and WHERE INCREASED ACTION IS NEEDED.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?
Ensuring accountability is one of the key roles of NCD civil society along with increasing awareness, ensuring access to services and advocating for action. This role can help achieve and accelerate government action and policy coherence, as well as responsive and coherent health systems and policies. Acquiring monitoring and accountability skills is a key capacity need of NCD alliances. Civil society can hold decision-makers across all sectors to account against their commitments, ensuring they have information to continuously make improvements, meet health needs, and respect the rights and needs of people living with NCDs, placing them at the center of their efforts.

ACCOUNTABILITY OPPORTUNITIES
Civil society-led efforts can hold decision-makers to account:

**Governments**: compare policies, programmatic action and budgets against national and international targets and commitments (e.g. through treaties, agreements, electoral manifestos/pledges); to improve data collection and surveillance systems; and to be transparent and inclusive (e.g. through active involvement of people living with NCDs and civil society in decision making processes).

**Private sector**: compare business practices against international standards and agreements related to health, human rights, environment, corruption, etc; calling out undue influence of unhealthy commodity industries in policy processes at all levels.

For more information on the Framework, CSSR, benchmarking tool and tips from alliances, check NCDA's accountability toolkit “Pushing for progress on NCDs”.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION
Multiple sets of commitments and targets for NCDs exist at global, regional and national levels, such as:

- **WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2030** and Monitoring Framework on NCDs
- **2014 UN Review Outcome Document** of the UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs
- **Political Declarations of the 2018 UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs** and the **2019 UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage**
- **2030 Agenda**, particularly Sustainable Development Goal 3
- **WHO NCD Progress Monitor** and Country Capacity Surveys
- **National health and NCD plans, policies and targets**
- **National surveys and data on NCDs and health, and many others!**
**A KEY ACCOUNTABILITY INITIATIVE**

**CIVIL SOCIETY STATUS REPORTS (CSSR)**

CSSRs can be a potent advocacy tool, compiling civil society perspectives on national/regional progress on NCDs, and identifying progress, good practice, gaps and challenges. The reports complement and support government surveillance, monitoring and reporting on NCDs.

Steps to prepare a CSSR:

**STEP 1**

**Determine key stakeholders** to involve in research, evaluation and drafting process.

**STEP 2**

**Define a timeline** to develop and disseminate the report, noting forthcoming opportunity windows and desired outcomes.

**STEP 3**

**Adapt the benchmarking tools** as indicators to review the national/regional response to NCDs.

**STEP 4**

**Promote results** as part of advocacy strategies.

For more information on the Framework, CSSR, benchmarking tool and tips from alliances, check NCDA's accountability toolkit “**Pushing for progress on NCDs**”.