Healthy ageing is something we all strive for, and it is required if we are to achieve SDG 3, which calls for good health and well-being for all, at all ages.

Ageing, of course, is a dynamic process that needs to be addressed throughout the life course.

Maintaining functional ability and intrinsic capacity at an older age depends in large part on how people live from childhood to maturity.

And embracing a healthy lifestyle and enjoying a health-enabling environment – from adolescence to adulthood – can lead to a healthy life even as we age.

Dementia and other noncommunicable diseases, are major causes of decline in older people, and tobacco is a common contributor to those diseases.

Robust implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control – included as a means of implementation of SDG 3.4 – will help African countries decrease the burden of tobacco-related dementia and other NCDs.

It will also contribute to making the Decade of Healthy Ageing a success, not only for the African Region, but for the entire world.

Thank you.

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