

Proposal for a Side Event at the Third High-level Meeting on NCDs

Title: The Power of Partnerships: Sustainable Financing for Noncommunicable Diseases

Topic: Follow-up on the recommendations of the WHO Global Conference on Enhancing Policy Coherence to prevent and control Noncommunicable Diseases: attaining SDG target 3.4 on NCDs by 2030 (18-20 October 2018, Montevideo, Uruguay), and the WHO Global Dialogue on Partnerships for Sustainable Financing of NCD Prevention and Control (Copenhagen, Denmark (9-11 April 2018).

Time: TBC

Venue: UN Headquarters New York

Format: Interactive multistakeholder panel discussion, with time allotted for audience participation

Number of participants: 30-60

Background

Noncommunicable diseases, or NCDs, such as cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes and their shared risk factors, such as tobacco use, poor diets, lack of physical exercise and alcohol abuse, are the main contributors to the global disease burden. Together, the four NCDs are responsible for 72% of all global deaths. Premature mortality (deaths between 30 and 69) from NCDs constitutes a major global health and development challenge, taking the lives of people when they are most productive. According to WHO, there were over 15 million premature NCD deaths globally in 2016, and no country was spared. Up to 80% of these premature deaths were in low- and middle-income countries.¹

In addition to the high disease burden, the high economic cost of inaction stresses the urgency of accelerating national responses to fight the diseases and enhance the lives and well-being of populations, communities, households and individuals. The cost of continued underinvestment in NCDs has been estimated at US\$47 trillion in lost gross domestic product globally between 2011 and 2025.² On the bright side, positive health impact and economic returns can be achieved in low-income and lower-middle-income countries by adopting the WHO best buys that are the most feasible and cost-effective interventions to prevent and control NCDs. With an additional investment of US\$1.27 per person per year from now until 2030, substantial progress can be achieved towards SDG 3.4, with a reduction of premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases by one third by 2030. Further,

¹ WHO Global Observatory Data. NCD mortality and morbidity. 2018. Available at http://www.who.int/gho/ncd/mortality_morbidity/en

² Bloom D. Cafeiro E. Llopis et al. The global economic burden of noncommunicable diseases. Geneva: World Economic Forum 2011.

implementing the WHO Best Buy interventions alone can generate more than USD 350 billion by 2030 and save 8.2 million lives.³

The UN HLM on Noncommunicable Disease Prevention and Control in September 2011 provided a powerful political platform to galvanize action at national and global levels against NCDs, but it did not result in immediate resource commitments. Rather, the meeting called for prioritizing budgetary allocations, “exploring” the provision of “predictable and sustained resources” through domestic and multilateral and bilateral channels, as well as innovative financing methods. The follow-up Second High-level Meeting on NCDs (in 2014) recognized the remarkable progress achieved since 2011 at the national level, with an increasing number of countries reporting having operational national NCD policies and plans with a budget to implement them. The meeting concluded that the progress was insufficient and “that continued and increased efforts were essential for achieving a world free of the avoidable burden of non-communicable diseases.”

Numerous high-level events and reports since 2014 - the WHO Global Conference on Noncommunicable diseases: Enhancing policy coherence between different spheres of policy making that have a bearing on attaining SDG target 3.4 on NCDs by 2030 (18-20 October 2018, Montevideo, Uruguay); the Montevideo Roadmap (2018-2030); the WHO Global Dialogue on Partnerships for Sustainable Financing of NCD Prevention and Control (9-11 April 2018, Copenhagen, Denmark); and the report of the WHO Independent High-level Commission on Noncommunicable Diseases - all stressed the lack of international and domestic financing to scale up national NCD responses, along with the lack of political will, cross-sectoral coherence and coordination, national policies and plans for NCDs, multistakeholder commitments, and sound accountability mechanisms.

The third High-level Meeting (HLM3) of the UN General Assembly on NCDs, with its strong emphasis on “scaling up multi-stakeholder and multisectoral responses to the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, including in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” provides an opportunity to review the commitments made since 2011, identify implementation challenges and propose solutions, mobilize new resources and strengthen the leadership, coherence, coordination and accountability of all relevant stakeholders.

Purpose

The WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs (GCM/NCD), together with partners, including Member States and non-State actors, will facilitate a side event on the margins of HLM3 to follow up on the outcomes of the WHO Global Conference on Enhancing Policy Coherence to prevent and control Noncommunicable Diseases: attaining SDG target 3.4 on NCDs by 2030 and the WHO Global Dialogue on Partnerships for Sustainable Financing of NCD Prevention and Control and advocate for increased resource mobilization, coherence, coordination and accountability to implement the commitments of HLM3.

³ Saving lives, spending less: a strategic response to noncommunicable diseases. Geneva, Switzerland. World Health Organization; 2018 (WHO/NMH/NVI/18.8).

The meeting will engage in dialogue with diverse stakeholders from governments, civil society and private sector to mobilize broad political support for accelerating the implementation of high-level commitments. More specifically, the event will highlight the areas where multisectoral and multistakeholder action is needed to accelerate national responses to NCD prevention and control to attain SDG 3.4.

Objectives

- Discuss the political economy challenges of mobilising domestic public financing for health and NCDs.
- Follow-up on the recommendations of the Montevideo Roadmap and the WHO Global Dialogue on partnerships for sustainable financing of NCD prevention and control to highlight challenges and showcase concrete examples on how to mobilise investments for the financing of national NCD responses, and increased coherence, coordination and accountability, including through public-private partnerships.
- Explore the role of implementation research on building evidence for how countries can scale up investments in effective and low-cost interventions to achieve progress towards UHC and SDG3.4.
- Identify *priority areas* in the draft Political Declaration of HLM3 (to be adopted by HLM3) for future multistakeholder collaborative work on NCDs.

Organizers:

Governments of Israel, China, Uruguay (TBC), Argentina (TBC) and USA (TBC)

Co-sponsors:

WHO GCM/NCD, World Diabetes Foundation, World Economic Forum, International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations, UNICEF and UNITAID (TBC)

Speakers: Speakers will include high-level representatives of co-organizing governments and sponsoring organizations