
BACKGROUND

The 134th WHO Executive Board (EB) is an important forum for NCD advocacy this year. Member States will discuss progress made against the UN Political Declaration on NCDs, including follow-up from last year's World Health Assembly (WHA), and advance discussions on related processes such as WHO Reform and the Post-2015 development agenda.

This briefing provides background and key messages on the NCD Alliance's three main priorities for the WHO EB – the Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs, the UN Review and Assessment on NCDs 2014, and the post-2015 development agenda.

Global Coordination Mechanism for NCDs (GCM)

Since the 2011 UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs, Member States and WHO have made significant progress in fulfilling commitments in the UN Political Declaration – including adopting global NCD targets, the Global NCD Action Plan, and formalising the UN Task Force on NCDs. However, governments and WHO have failed to date on their commitment to establish a global multisectoral partnership for NCDs to catalyse joint UN, government and civil society action and collaboration for NCDs.

Member States partially agreed a terms of reference (ToRs) for what is being termed the “global coordination mechanism” (GCM) in November 2013. However, there are important sections of the ToRs – including membership, governance, and financing - that remain undecided by Member States. The draft ToRs is included in the EB paper on NCDs. The EB is expected to note the ToRs, and agree a date for a final Member State meeting to complete the ToRs before the WHA. See NCD Alliance key messages below.

Key Messages:

- **WHO and Member States are at risk of failing on a key commitment in the UN Political Declaration.** Decisive and urgent action is required at the WHO EB and at the consequent formal Member State meeting to finalise the ToRs for the GCM. We cannot afford to wait any longer.
- The purpose of the GCM has been defined by Member States as a vehicle to facilitate and enhance coordination of activities, multistakeholder engagement and action on NCDs across all sectors. **In order to deliver on this purpose, the GCM must include UN, governments, NGOs and relevant private sector.** If the GCM excludes non-state actors, it will become a talking shop for governments and will fundamentally fail in fulfilling its mandate of being multisectoral.
- Drawing from the lessons learnt of past and present global partnerships, **a key determinant of success for the GCM will be ensuring a robust and inclusive governance structure.** The GCM needs a small, multisectoral advisory body to act as the “engine” in driving priorities and activities of the GCM; a lean secretariat based in WHO HQ; and working groups to deliver on the priority activities.
- With a proposed budget of \$1.8 million USD for 2014-15 budget year **the GCM takes up a mere 0.05% of the total WHO Programme Budget.** The GCM is far from being another burdensome and resource intensive health partnership. Governments should not delay agreement on the GCM based on concerns over cost.

UN Comprehensive Review and Assessment on NCDs, 2014

The UN High-level Meeting on NCDs in 2011 and the UN Political Declaration placed NCDs on the global development agenda, and committed all stakeholders to a set of actions to accelerate the NCD response. This year, the United Nations General Assembly is mandated to hold a comprehensive review and assessment of the progress made on NCDs since 2011.

The 2014 UN NCD Review represents a significant opportunity for the NCD community. Heads of state, government representatives, NGOs and public health experts will take stock on progress on NCDs, and agree on future action to tackle the epidemic. Similar UN High-Level Reviews for HIV/AIDS, held every five years, have proven to be pivotal in maintaining political attention and momentum for the issue.

As was the case for the 2011 UN High-Level Meeting, the preparatory process leading up to the UN Review will be important. As a first step, the UN Secretary-General published a report in January 2014 summarising progress made against the Political Declaration. This will likely inform the focus and themes for the UN Review. In addition, the exact details of length, scope and outcomes of the UN Review will be decided by a 'Modalities Resolution' which is expected to be put to the UN General Assembly in January 2014. Although there is no official agenda item on the Review at the WHO EB, it is a good opportunity to be promoting our priorities for the modalities resolution with Member States. See NCD Alliance priorities below:

Priorities for modalities of the UN NCD Review:

- The Review should take place in **September 2014**, during the high-level week of the opening of the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly;
- The Review should be **high-level**, with the participation of Heads of State/Government;
- The Review should be **two days in length**, to maximise the opportunity and provide adequate time for discussion and decision;
- The Review and preparatory process should involve the **full and active participation of civil society**, including through the establishment of a **Civil Society Task Force (CSTF)**;
- The Review should **result in a concise, forward-looking, and action-oriented outcomes document**, which reaffirms and builds on the Political Declaration to guide and monitor the NCD response beyond 2014, including a commitment to convene High-Level Reviews on NCDs at UN Headquarters every five years.

Health and NCDs in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

As the end date of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) draws near, the UN is leading a process to define priorities for the post-2015 development framework. Several official inputs into the post-2015 process, including the report of the High-level Panel on post-2015 and the July 2013 UN Secretary General report *A Life of Dignity for All*, promote NCDs as a priority for post-2015.

The WHO governing bodies are important opportunities to promote the importance of health and NCDs in post-2015 with Member States. There is an EB agenda item on post-2015, where a WHO secretariat report on health in post-2015 will be discussed. The NCD Alliance key messages on post-2015 are outlined below.

Key Messages:

- The overarching **health goal in post-2015 should be focused on maximising health at all stages of life**. This overarching, outcome-focused health goal captures the health dimension of sustainable development and is universally applicable. This goal will measure healthy life expectancy throughout the lifecourse, encompassing mortality, morbidity and disability;
- To support the achievement of the overarching health goal, it should be underpinned by a sub-set of health goals/targets including **accelerating progress on the unfinished business of the MDGs, and reducing the burden of NCDs. The "25 by 25" NCD mortality target should be adapted for post-2015;**
- Two critical enablers for health that will accelerate progress on health and other dimensions of post-2015 agenda are **universal health coverage and access (UHC + A) and the social determinants of health**. Both will encourage action to achieve health outcomes. UHC must be clearly defined as including prevention, promotion, treatment, rehabilitation, and care for all;
- As well as a health-related goals and a stand-alone target on NCDs, we must ensure **health and NCDs are integrated across all dimensions** of post-2015. NCDs are a multisectoral issue and impact poverty reduction and economic development, social development, and environmental sustainability. **This will require NCDs and health to be considered in the formulation of all goals, and the incorporation of health sensitive indicators across the dimensions.**