Accelerating the national response to NCDs through the Global Group of Heads of State and Governments; and A Global NCD Compact

Output of the International Strategic Dialogue on NCDs and SDGs (Accra, 12 April 2022)

Preamble

1. Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs)\(^1\) are the largest, most underfunded public health challenge where the most lives (millions of lives) could be saved. The global share of NCD deaths among all deaths increased from 61% in 2000 to 74% in 2019\(^2\). Deaths due to NCDs accounted for 7 out of the 10 leading causes of death in 2019\(^3\). Premature deaths from NCDs (between ages 30-70 years) are rapidly increasing\(^4\) and some 85% of premature deaths from NCDs in 2019 occurred in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC)\(^5\). Mental health conditions contribute significantly to the global NCD burden. Most starkly, 150 million people between the ages of 30 and 70 years living in LMICs are expected to die from NCDs over the coming decade.

2. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, includes Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target 3.4\(^6\) for NCDs and 3.8\(^7\) for Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Just 14 countries are on track to meet SDG target 3.4 and without achieving this, SDG 3.8 will be difficult to realise.

3. World leaders have, unanimously, expressed grave concern that the huge human and economic cost of NCDs contributes to poverty and inequities and threatens the health and development of countries, costing developing countries over the next 15 years more than US$ 7 trillion\(^8\). Most premature deaths from NCDs can be delayed or avoided through cost-effective solutions, but domestic and international financing to enable this remains extremely limited. Despite being the world’s largest cause of death, NCDs continue to receive 1-2% of all official development assistance (ODA) for health. Investment in health systems to respond to NCDs is urgent for building resilience, preparedness and ensure Health Security.

---

\(^1\) Noncommunicable Diseases includes heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes and chronic lung disease, mental health conditions and major risk factors: tobacco use, physical inactivity, the harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diets and air pollution.


\(^3\) Paragraph 5 on page 53 of https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB150/B150_7-en.pdf


\(^6\) By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

\(^7\) Achieve universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

\(^8\) In accordance with paragraph 7 of 73/2 (2018 Political Declaration of the third High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of NCDs)
4. Addressing NCDs is an attractive investment. An updated global investment case developed by WHO\(^9\) shows that close to seven million lives can be saved by 2030 for an additional investment of 0.84 dollar in LMICs. This and other health gains, when converted into economic and social benefits, are estimated to be worth more than US$ 230 billion. Investing in NCDs will continue to pay for itself and is a clear and sensible win-win for all.

5. With the political commitments made and the fact that NCDs are one of the most important developmental public health issues, it is time to act now by reimagining how to address the implementation gaps, boosting capital for national NCD responses, and navigating a renewed global effort against NCDs.

6. On the occasion of the International Strategic Dialogue on NCDs and SDGs on 12th April 2022, in Accra, Ghana, the Co-Chairs of the Dialogue, have launched the Global NCD Compact 2020-2030 (NCD Compact) and the Global Group of Heads of State and Government on Prevention and Control of NCD (NCD Presidential Group).

7. The multi-year **aim** of the NCD Compact and the NCD Presidential Group is to accelerate the progress towards SDG 3.4 and 3.8 by 2030 by calling on countries to align strategies and operations with universal commitments\(^ {10} \) made to accelerate and scale up the global collective efforts to prevent and control NCDs and achieve UHC.

8. The Global NCD Compact and the NCD Presidential Group builds on the three UN High-level political declarations for the prevention and control of NCDs and will galvanize momentum towards the second UN High-level meeting on UHC in 2023, and the fourth UN High-level meeting on the prevention and control of NCDs in 2025.

9. Heads of State and Governments of WHO Member States may sign up to the NCD Compact and UN Agencies and Non-state actors can express their support as co-sponsors in alignment with the WHO Framework of Engagement with Non-state Actors (FENSA). The NCD Compact is a living document and will be updated on a yearly basis by its current and future signatories among Heads of State and Governments to navigate in preparation of the next UN High level meeting on NCDs in 2025 and going forward towards 2030.

10. Heads of State and Governments of WHO Member States may become a member of the NCD Presidential Group.

11. The NCD Presidential Group will meet annually on the occasion of the high-level General Debate of the UN General Assembly.

---

\(^9\) Saving lives, spending less: the case for investing in noncommunicable diseases (who.int)

\(^{10}\) In accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolutions 66/2 (2011 Political Declaration of the first High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of NCDs), 68/300 (2014 Outcome Document of the second High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of NCDs), and 73/2 (2018 Political Declaration of the third High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of NCDs), and United Nations General Assembly resolution 74/2 (2019 Political Declaration of the first High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage).