



INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC DIALOGUE ON NCDs AND SDGs

Accra, Ghana | 12 April 2022

UPDATED CONCEPT NOTE, 22 March 2022

The historic obligation

Over the past 10 years, Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) have changed the world. NCDs have become the leading cause of death in most countries, resulting in 150 million premature deaths among people aged between 30 and 70 years, most living in developing countries. The global share of NCD deaths among all deaths increased from 61% in 2000 to 74% in 2019¹. At the global level, 7 of the 10 leading causes of death in 2019 were NCDs. During the next 10 years, another 150 million people will die from NCDs between the ages of 30 and 70 years unless action is taken. Most premature deaths can be avoided or delayed.

COVID-19 has disclosed the lack of sufficient inclusion of NCDs and investments in PHC and UHC leading to 50-60% disruption for all major NCDs and Mental health services in more than 70% of the countries. Hence, in September 2020, the United Nations General Assembly called upon Member States “to further strengthen efforts to address NCDs as part of universal health coverage (UHC), recognizing that people living with NCDs are at a higher risk of developing severe COVID-19 symptoms and are among the most impacted by the pandemic”. NCDs need to be part of the resilience and preparedness agenda to ensure health security.

Just 14 countries are on track to meet SDG target 3.4 for 2030, as measured by indicator 3.4.1². WHO has provided cost-effective and affordable solutions to curb NCDs (the best-buys). Pathway analyses in the NCD Countdown 2030 report show that, in 2021, every country still has options today for achieving SDG target 3.4 by 2030. No country could achieve the target by addressing only prevention or only counselling, screening, early diagnosis and appropriate treatment of NCDs. A combination of approaches is needed to significantly impact NCD outcomes, and to further make progress towards achieving UHC as set by SDG 3.8¹.

To accelerate the response to NCDs, the World Health Assembly has extended the NCD Global Action Plan to 2030 and requested an implementation roadmap for NCDs for the period 2023-2030³. The 3 strategic directions in the roadmap are to: 1) accelerate national response, 2) prioritize and scale up the implementation of most impactful and feasible interventions and 3) ensure timely, reliable and sustained national data on NCD risk factors, diseases and mortality for data driven actions and to strengthen accountability.

Realizing that NCDs remain the largest, most internationally underfunded public health issue globally, where most lives could be saved or improved, and that addressing NCDs must be an integral part of the immediate response to COVID-19 and of the recovery at national levels, as well as part of the strategies to build back better, Norway launched its “Better Health, Better Lives” strategy (2020-2024)⁴ to combat

¹ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/the-top-10-causes-of-death>

² https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB150/B150_7-en.pdf, Annex 6

³ https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB150/B150_7-en.pdf, annex 1

⁴ https://www.regjeringen.no/globalassets/departementene/ud/vedlegg/utvikling/betterhealth_summary.pdf

non-communicable diseases (NCDs) as part of its international development assistance. The updated global investment case show that 7 million lives can be saved each year for an additional investment of 0.84 dollar in LMIC that in addition will gain 230 mill USD. With the political commitments made and the fact that NCDs is the most important developmental public health issue, it is time to act now.

The ambition

The WHO and the Government of Norway launched the NCD Flagship initiative, the first of its kind and specifically aiming at providing better support and solutions to economic, social, and development aspects of NCDs in 5 selected countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Nepal, and Myanmar). The government of Ghana has shown strong commitment in the implementation of the overall SDG Agenda 2030, with the appointment of the President of Ghana, to serve as co-chair of the UN Secretary-General's SDGs Advocates.

As such it was proposed that the office of the President of Ghana together with the Government of Norway and WHO will co-organize an international strategic dialogue on NCDs and the SDGs. An invitation will be extended by the President of Ghana, the Prime Minister of Norway and WHO Director General to Heads of State and Government of WHO member states.

The Dialogue aims to raise the profile of the NCD agenda within the SDGs internationally and bring together national and international actors and partners to share knowledge and ideas with key stakeholders from the public and private sectors, the academic and business world, and international development experts.

The Dialogue will be organized to foster the emergence of additional ideas to “progressively cover all people by 2030 with quality essential health services and quality, safe, effective, affordable and essential medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and health technologies for the prevention, screening, early diagnosis and treatment of NCDs”⁵, within the framework of the SDGs.

Purpose

The International Strategic Dialogue Meeting on noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) co-organized by the Government of Ghana, Government of Norway and the World Health Organization taking place on Tuesday, 12 April 2022 in Accra, Ghana.

The objectives of the meeting are to:

- Raise the priority accorded to the prevention and control of NCDs within the national SDG response in low- and middle-income countries;
- Bring together national and international actors and partners to share knowledge and ideas with key stakeholders from the public and private sectors, the academic and business world, and international development experts on what would it take globally for low- and middle-income countries to achieve SDG 3 on health, with a particular focus on SDG 3.4 (NCDs) and SDG 3.8 (UHC) targets;

⁵ Paragraph 24 of A/RES/74/2 (Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on UHC)



- Raise the political visibility of Heads of State and Government who are providing a strategic leadership role in the prevention and control of NCDs to a global level.

Outputs

1. **The launch of The (informal) International Group of Heads of State and Government on the Prevention and Control of NCDs (NCD Presidential Group)** to accelerate the implementation of the commitments included in the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and to provide strategic leadership for the prevention and control of NCDs by promoting greater policy coherence and coordination through whole-of-government and health-in-all-policies approaches and by engaging stakeholders in an appropriate, coordinated, comprehensive and integrated, bold whole-of-society action and response . The International Group of Heads of State and Government will meet annually on the occasion of the high-level General Debate of the UN General Assembly. The President of Ghana will chair the first meeting of the Group, which will take place in September 2022 in New York on the occasion of the high-level General Debate of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly and annually thereafter.
2. **The launch of an International NCD Compact 2022-2030** to accelerate the progress towards the NCD and SDG targets, taking into account the commitments included in the relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the guidance provided by the relevant resolutions adopted by the World Health Assembly. in line with the UNGA and WHA resolutions launched. The multi-year aim of the Compact is to drive awareness and action towards achieving SDG 3.4 and 3.8 .

Organisational arrangements and agenda

Date: 12 April 2022, from 9:00 to 12:30 (GMT).

The meeting will take place in a hybrid format, in-person and virtual, as appropriate to country and travel context. The link per virtual participation will be shared in due course

Language: The dialogue will be conducted in English and simultaneous interpretation in the 6 UN languages be made available.

International and National Participation

- Heads of State and Government
- Director General of WHO and, WHO Regional Directors
- UN Agencies
- Heads of Embassies and High Commission in Ghana
- Development Partners
- Civil Society

Agenda

09:00	Opening Remarks
	Statements from key international stakeholders
	Patient Journey
11:00	Arrival of the President of Ghana and Welcome Remarks
	Africa Regional Statement
	Keynote Addresses What would it take globally for low- and middle-income countries to achieve SDG 3.4 (NCDs) and SDG 3.8 (UHC) and Response • Heads of States
	Official Addresses How to place countries on a path to reach the SDGs 3.4 and 3.8? • WHO Director General • HE Macky Sall, President of AU/Senegal (TBC) • Prime Minister of Norway • President of Ghana
	Launch of NCD Presidential Group and International NCD Compact 2022-30
12:30	Close