



## SIDS Ministerial Conference on NCDs and Mental Health

Wednesday 14 June – Friday 16 June 2023

09:00–17:30 Atlantic time (GMT -4)

Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre, Bridgetown, Barbados

Welcome and keynote address will take place on Tuesday, 13 June 2023

**Zoom link:** <https://who.zoom.us/j/91433947788> **Passcode:** SIDS@233

### Background

In recognition of the high burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health in SIDS countries, as well as the impact of climate change coupled with the impact of COVID-19 on health and economies in these particularly vulnerable states, WHO, PAHO and the Government of Barbados are convening ministers from SIDS countries and partner organization to the SIDS Ministerial Conference to be held 14–16 June 2023 in Barbados. This is a follow on from the SIDS High-level technical meeting on NCDs and mental health held in January 2023, where representatives from SIDS countries discussed the progress and challenges to meet the Sustainable Development Goal 3.4 related to NCDs and key recommendations were provided for the subsequent development of a negotiated outcome document. This meeting also serves as a follow up to the virtual WHO SIDS Summit for Health held in July 2021, which urged Member States to strengthen their collaboration and partnership to address development challenges, and as part of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

### Purpose

- To reaffirm political commitments for NCDs and mental health and endorse the outcome document of the Ministerial Conference of SIDS on the Prevention and Control of NCDs and Mental Health.

### Objectives

- To raise awareness and understanding of the challenges and possible solutions to scale up multisector actions on NCDs and mental health, considering the impact of climate change in SIDS countries.
- To stimulate increased domestic action and international cooperation on NCDs and mental health in SIDS.
- To agree on country specific actions for NCDs and mental health that will operationalize commitments expressed in the outcome document and other relevant frameworks.

### Expected outcome

- Outcome document endorsed by ministers of SIDS countries
- An operational plan of action describing the country specific actions and global/regional cooperation to implement commitments expressed in the outcome document.

## Draft programme

### Tuesday, 13 June 2023

16:00–17:15 **Accreditation**

17:30–17:45 **Welcome, national anthem and opening remarks**

Senator Dr the Most Honourable Jerome Walcott, Minister of Health and Wellness  
Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, WHO

17:50–18:20 **Keynote address:** Intersection of climate change, NCDs and mental health

Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados

18:25–18:30 **Closing** and move to reception venue: Ilaro Court, Prime Minister's Residence

19:00–21:00 **Reception** at the Prime Minister's Residence

### Wednesday, 14 June 2023

08:00–09:00 **Accreditation and seating**

09:00–09:15 **Security briefing**

09:15–10:15 **Welcome, national anthem and opening remarks**

*Moderator:* Hon. Dr Sonia Browne, Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Barbados  
*Speakers:*

- Senator Dr the Most Honourable Jerome Walcott, Minister of Health and Wellness, Barbados
- Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, WHO
- Dr Jarbas Barbosa, Regional Director, PAHO
- Person living with NCD/MHC: Professor Alafia Samuels

10:15–10:30 **Building on longstanding global leadership from the SIDS**

1. **2007 Port of Spain Declaration**, "Uniting to stop the epidemic of chronic NCDs"  
Hon. Terrence Deyalsingh, Minister of Health, Trinidad and Tobago
2. **SAMOA Pathway**  
Hon. Valasi Luapitofanua Toogamaga Tafito Selesele, Minister of Health, Samoa

10:30–12:00 **Session 1: Pathways to accelerate national NCD and mental health responses in SIDS**

*Moderator:* Dr Bente Mikkelsen, Director of Department for Noncommunicable Diseases, WHO

The purpose of this session is to set the stage and provide a context for the pressing issues faced by SIDS that hamper progress towards SDG 3.4 and prevent full implementation of NCD, risk factors and mental health interventions in SIDS. Proposed topics to be addressed, through the moderated panel of ministers could include the following: NCD, risk factors and mental health data in SIDS, political commitments, global opportunities for NCDs and mental health, sustainable and innovative partnerships and financing for NCDs and mental health, collaboration across SIDS, capacity for response to multiple priorities and how to address these challenges.

- Address by person with lived experience: Ms Maria Divina O'Brien, Trinidad and Tobago
- Moderated panel discussion with ministers and civil society:
  - **Fiji** – Hon. Ratu Antonio Rabici Lalabalavu, Minister for Health and Medical Services
  - **Anguilla** – Hon. Ellis Webster, Premier and Minister of Finance and Health
  - **Jamaica** – Hon. Dr Christopher Tufton, Minister of Health and Wellness
  - **NCD Alliance** – Ms Katie Dain, Chief Executive Officer
  - **Healthy Caribbean Coalition** – Dr Kenneth Connell, Deputy Dean, University of West Indies
  - **World Bank** – Ms Jumana Qamruddin, Strategy, Operations and Innovation

12:00–12:10 **Photocall**

12:10–13:30 **Lunch**

13:30–15:00

## **Session 2: Impact of climate change on NCDs and mental health in SIDS**

*Moderator: Dr Mark Jacobs Director, Pacific Technical Support/WHO Representative, South Pacific*

The purpose of this session is to raise awareness and understanding of the links between climate change, NCDs and mental health and contribute to a discussion on possible strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change on NCDs and mental health. Proposed topics to be addressed through the keynote presentation as well as the moderated panel discussion of ministers include the following: associations between climate change and NCDs and mental health; preserving ecosystems and biodiversity for health; building climate-resistant health care facilities (Wash, electricity, solar energy, Smart Hospitals); opportunities to access funding or resources from climate change to address NCDs and mental health.

- Address by youth representative: Ms Ashley Lashley, Barbados
- Keynote address: Dr Maria Neira, Director of Environment, Climate Change and Health, WHO
- Moderated panel with ministers
- **Marshall Islands** – Hon. Joe Bejang, Minister of Health and Human Services
- **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** – Hon. St. Clair Prince, Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment
- **Sao Tomé and Príncipe** – Hon. Dr Celsio Rodrigues Da Vera Cruz Junqueira, Minister of Health, Labor, and Social Affairs
- **British Virgin Islands** – Hon. Vincent Wheatley, Minister of Health and Social Development

15:00–15:30

## **Physical activity break**

15:30–17:00

## **Session 3: Lessons learned from COVID-19 and preparing for future health emergencies, focusing on NCDs and mental health**

*Moderator: Dr Jérôme Salomon, Assistant Director-General, Universal Health Coverage/Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases (UCN), WHO*

The purpose of this session is to review the impact of COVID-19 on NCDs and mental health and promote the inclusion of NCDs and mental health in emergency preparedness and response plans. Proposed topics to be addressed through the keynote presentation as well as the moderated panel discussion of ministers include the following: disproportionate effects of COVID-19 on people with NCDs; provision of care to people living with NCDs and mental health conditions during emergencies (natural disasters, climate change events, conflicts, disease outbreaks); vulnerable populations suffering NCDs in a post emergency context; mental health and psychosocial support in the context of emergencies.

- Address by youth representative – Ms Stephanie Whiteman, Trinidad and Tobago
- Moderated panel with ministers and civil society:
- **Samoa** – Hon. Valasi Luapitofanua Toogamaga Tafito Selesele, Minister of Health
- **Federal States of Micronesia** – Dr X-ner Luther, NCD Coordinator, FSM
- **Montserrat** – Hon. Veronica Dorsette-Hector, Parliamentary Secretary
- **Trinidad and Tobago** – Dr Maria Clapperton, NCD Director
- **NCD Alliance of Trinidad and Tobago** – Dr Karen Sealey

17:00

## **Conclude day 1**

## Thursday, 15 June 2023

### 09:00–10:00 **Roundtable discussion with Heads of State and Heads of Organizations**

*Moderator: Sir George Alleyne, co-chair of High-level Policy Expert Group*

- **WHO** – Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- **Trinidad and Tobago** – Minister of Health, Hon. Terrence Deyalsingh
- **Anguilla** – Premier and Minister of Finance and Health, Hon. Dr Ellis L Webster
- **Barbados** – Hon. Ryan R. Straughn, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs and Investment
- **Mauritius** – Minister of Health, Hon. Dr Kailesh Kumar Singh Jagutpal
- **Commonwealth Secretariat** – Secretary-General, Rt Hon. Patricia Scotland KC
- **World Bank** – Global Director for Health Nutrition and Population, Dr Juan Pablo Uribe

*Closing: Dr Jarbas Barbosa, Regional Director, PAHO*

### 10:00–10:30 **Physical activity break**

### 10:30–12:00 **Session 4: Reorienting health systems with a focus on primary health care for NCDs and mental health**

*Moderator: Dr Anselm Hennis, Director of Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, PAHO*

The purpose of this session is to discuss strategies suitable and appropriate for the context in SIDS countries to improve NCD screening, diagnosis, treatment and self-management support through primary health care, including telehealth strategies. Proposed topics to be addressed through moderated panel discussion of ministers include the following: increasing capacity at the primary care level for NCD diagnosis and treatment, health human resources and task shifting for NCDs, improving access to essential medicines and technologies, digital health and telehealth strategies.

- Address by youth representative: Mr Pierre Cooke, Barbados
- Moderated panel with ministers
- **Barbados** – Dr the Most Honourable Kenneth George, Chief Medical Officer
- **Cabo Verde** – Hon. Filomena Gonçalves, Minister of Health
- **Antigua and Barbuda** – Hon. Sir Molwyn Joseph, Minister of Health
- **Cook Islands** – Hon. Vainetutai Rose Brown, Minister of Health
- **St Kitts and Nevis** – Dr Sharon Archibald, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health
- **World Bank** – Mr Thulani Matsebula, Senior Health Economist

### 12:00–13:30 **Lunch**

### 13:30–14:45 **Session 5: Mental health**

*Moderator: Dr Dévora Kestel, Director of Mental Health and Substance use, WHO*

The purpose of this session is to discuss strategies suitable and appropriate for the context in SIDS countries to improve policies, services and surveillance for mental health. Proposed topics to be addressed through the keynote presentation as well as the moderated panel discussion of ministers include the following: mental health situation in SIDS, adolescent mental health, suicide prevention, links between mental health, substance use and NCDs.

- Address by person with lived experience: Ms Desrie Richards, St Vincent and The Grenadines
- Keynote address: Dr Katija Khan, President, Caribbean Alliance of National Psychological Associations
- Moderated panel with ministers and civil society
  - **Grenada** – Hon. Jonathan LaCrette, Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment
  - **Tuvalu** – Hon. Minister Isaia Vaipuna Taape, Minister of Health Social Welfare and Gender Affairs
  - **Guyana** – Hon. Frank C.S. Anthony, Minister of Health
  - **United for Global Mental Health** – Ms Sarah Kline, Chief Executive Officer

14:45–15:00 Break

15:00–16:15 **Session 6: Multisector collaboration to address NCD risk factors and commercial determinants**

*Moderator: Dr Svetlana Akselrod, Director, WHO Global NCD Platform*

The purpose of this session is to discuss the situation faced by SIDS countries, and solutions to reduce tobacco use and harmful use of alcohol, promote nutrition, physical activity and prevent obesity. Proposed topics to be addressed through the keynote presentation as well as the moderated panel discussion of ministers include the following: strengthening multisectoral engagement and policy coherence for NCDs in SIDS; addressing commercial determinants of health including industry interference and conflicts of interest; WHO best buy interventions for tobacco, alcohol, obesity prevention including taxation and fiscal policies; environmental and food systems considerations.

- Address by youth representative: Mr Christopher Laurie, Barbados
- Keynote address: Dr Joy St John, Executive Director of CARPHA
- Moderated panel with ministers and civil society
  - **Belize** – Hon. Kevin Bernard, Minister of Health and Wellness
  - **Vanuatu** - Dr Jenny Stephens, Director of Public Health
  - **Mauritius** - Dr Sudhir Kowlessur, Director, Health Promotion and Research, Ministry of Health and Wellness
  - **Bahamas** – Hon. Michael Darville, Minister of Health and Wellness
  - **Suriname** – Dr Ritesh Dhanpat, MD, Deputy Director of Health
  - **Healthy Caribbean Coalition** – Ms Maisha Hutton, Executive Director

16:15–17:00 **Closing session: Outcome document on NCDs and mental health in SIDS**

*Moderator: Hon. Dr Sonia Browne, Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Barbados*

**Launch of the outcome document**

- Welcome: Hon. Sonia Browne, Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Barbados
- Presentation and launch of the outcome document coordinated by co-chairs Permanent Representatives to UN Organizations in Geneva, Ambassador Matthew Wilson (Barbados) and Ambassador Luke Daunivalu (Fiji) (video recording)
- Gavel moment to launch the “2023 Bridgetown declaration on NCDs and mental health” led by Hon. Sonia Browne and supported by Ms Robyn-Ann Mani, Health Attaché, Permanent Mission of Fiji, Geneva
- Reflections from person with lived experience: Fale Andrew Lesa, Samoa
- Reflections from the High-level Policy Expert Group co-chairs: Sir George Alleyne, Sir Collin Tukuitonga
- Way forward: Dr Bente Mikkelsen, Director, Department for NCDs, WHO
- Closing remarks: Hon. Sonia Browne, Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Wellness, Barbados, on behalf of Senator Dr the Most Honourable Jerome Walcott, Minister of Health and Wellness, Barbados

17:00 End of day 2

## Friday, 16 June 2023

09:00–16:00 **Creating operational plan of actions to implement the commitments expressed in the outcome document**

09:00–09:15 **Introductory remarks: Dr Bente Mikkelsen, Director NCD/WHO**

09:15–09:30 **Move to breakout rooms**

09:30–12:00 **Operational planning: Part 1**

Structured discussions, working in small working groups facilitated by WHO, to identify country specific solutions and actions, as well as global/regional cooperation to implement the commitments expressed in the outcome document and other relevant frameworks (e.g. Pacific roadmap)

*Breakout room 1*  
**Commercial determinants** of health

Moderator: Monika Kosinska, WHO

*Breakout room 2*  
**Financing** options for NCDs and mental health

Moderator: Dan Chisholm, WHO

*Breakout room 3*  
Addressing **climate change** impact on NCDs and mental health

Moderator: Maria Neira and Gerardo Zamora, WHO

*Breakout room 4*  
Strengthening the collective voices of SIDS for **advocacy** on NCDs and mental health

Moderator: Gini Arnold, WHO

12:00–13:00 **Lunch**

13:00–15:00 **Operational planning: Part 2**

*Breakout room 5*  
Addressing risk factors, nutrition, food systems, and **obesity prevention**

Moderator: Ulrike Schwerdtfeger and Gerardo Zamora, WHO

*Breakout room 6*  
**Primary health care** strengthening for NCDs and mental health

Moderator: Silvana Luciani, WHO

*Breakout room 7*  
**Emergency preparedness and response** for NCDs and mental health

Moderator: Slim Slama, WHO

*Breakout room 8*  
Improving **information systems and data** in SIDS to monitor NCDs and mental health

Moderator: Tomo Kanda, WHO

15:00–15:45 **Report back on operational plans**

15:45–16:00 **Conclusions and next steps**

16:00 **Adjourn**