Second Meeting of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases

(Geneva, 29-30 January 2014)
INFORMAL SUMMARY OF THE MEETING

1. The Second Meeting of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (the Task Force) was convened by WHO and held at WHO in Geneva, 29-30 January 2014. The meeting was attended by FAO, IAEA, IARC, IDLO, ILO, ITU, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNSCN, UNSDP, WFP, WIPO, WHO and CSF of the WHO FCTC, World Bank and WTO. The meeting was chaired by WHO. Dr Chan, Director-General, WHO, addressed the Task Force on 30 January 2014.

2. The objectives of the meeting were:
   (i) to receive updates on activities from Members, including on the outcomes of recent discussions at the WHO Executive Board on progress in developing terms of reference for the UN Interagency Task Force on NCDs and the Global Coordination Mechanism, as well as preparations for the UN General Assembly review and assessment in 2014 of progress achieved in realizing the commitments included in the UN Political Declaration on NCDs (Note: discussions on 30 January 2014 were dedicated to tobacco control);
   (ii) to develop a workplan for 2014-2015 in line with the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020, and the terms of reference for the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs, including a division of tasks and responsibilities for United Nations funds, programmes and agencies and other international organizations;
   (iii) to agree the structure and content for the Secretary-General’s 2014 report on the work of the Task Force.

3. The list of participants is in Annex 1. The agreed agenda is Annex 2.

Updates from members of the Task Force

4. WHO shared the following outcomes and discussions held during: (i) the 11-15 November 2013 formal meeting of Member States; and (ii) the 134th WHO Executive Board (20-25 January 2014):
   - Draft terms of reference for the Task Force, including division of tasks and responsibilities;
   - Draft terms of reference for a Global Coordination Mechanism;
   - Sequencing of reporting on NCD activities to WHO governing bodies, ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly;
   - Priority actions recommended for Member States outlined in the WHO Secretariat’s report to the 134th Executive Board (Follow-up to the
Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of NCDs).  

• Preparations for the United Nations General Assembly comprehensive review and assessment in 2014 of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of NCDs (UNGA NCD Review 2014).

5. WHO provided an update on the One-WHO NCD workplan with discussions around “Phase I” countries that the One-WHO NCD workplan would support in terms of providing upstream policy advance (i.e. to set national targets, and develop national multisectoral plans to attain these national targets, and integrate NCDs into UNDAFs), as well as highly technical (sophisticated) technical assistance.  

6. Other members of the Task Force provided updates on the work being done to support national efforts to implement the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020. Collaborative and synergistic interagency work were specifically highlighted.

7. The Convention Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) provided an overview of updates to the Task Force on the implementation of the FCTC since the last meeting in March 2013. These included:
   • The holding of regional workshops attended by other Task Force members;
   • A focus on the legal challenges to tobacco control regulation;
   • The identification of five projects aiming to stimulate south-south and triangular cooperation;
   • The development of interagency missions working to expand the outreach of the WHO FCTC.

8. WHO described the outcomes of a joint UN project to develop recommendations for tobacco use and reproductive health. This project was developed following ECOSOC Resolution (2010/8) requesting UN agencies to “work together to promote the reduction of tobacco use among women, in particular women of reproductive age, and those around them”. As a result of this joint work, the “WHO recommendations for the prevention and management of tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure in pregnancy” was published in 2013. Similar recommendations on alcohol and other psychoactive substances are expected to be available in early 2014.

9. The Task Force engaged in a round-table discussion facilitated by the Convention Secretariat on the topic of governance as an overarching obligation in line with Article 5 of the Convention. Key recommendations from the discussion included:
   • Supporting country-specific stakeholder analysis;

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2 Countries selected are as follows: AFRO (Mozambique and Rwanda), AMRO (Costa Rica, Ecuador and Paraguay), EMRO (Morocco and Oman), EURO (Azerbaijan, Belarus and Uzbekistan), SEARO (Nepal and Sri Lanka) and WPRO (China, Fiji, Mongolia and Viet Nam).
• Generating disaggregated data and analysis;
• Adopting a more proactive approach to integrating the WHO FCTC implementation into the UN Development Assistance Frameworks in countries;
• Delivering a capacity-building strategy to support WHO FCTC implementation.

10. A discussion was held on how best to share this information to wider audiences. Participants agreed that reporting be made available online and in one place.

Action: The Task Force Secretariat to make informal situation reports accessible online on the WHO website with updates every three to six months and for this to be linked with the ongoing mapping exercise.

2014-2015 workplan
11. The Task Force reviewed an outline workplan developed by WHO. It was agreed that the workplan should be aligned with Annex 6 of Priority actions recommended for Member States outlined in the WHO Secretariat’s report to the 134th Executive Board (see Paragraph 4). Members provided inputs into the workplan.

12. Taking into account discussions of the One-WHO Steering Group (see Paragraph 5), the UNDAF process and ongoing action in countries by Task Force members, the Task Force agreed to explore the possibilities of providing upstream policy advice to a Phase 1 set of countries as follows: Barbados, Belarus, China, Fiji, Mozambique, Rwanda and Viet Nam.

13. The Task Force reviewed an outline approach for providing technical assistance to these countries and that in the first instance a UN Thematic Group on NCDs at the country level be established, composed of the UN Country Team and national partners. WHO Regional Advisers indicated the need to strengthen interagency coordination at regional and specially at country level.

Action: WHO to circulate a draft work plan with Phase 1 countries included for comment. A further draft work plan would then be disseminated following comments from members of the Task Force. The final workplan would then be agreed by teleconference in March 2014.

UN Secretary General’s report to ECOSOC
14. The outline, key messages, timetable, and process of the UN Secretary General’s report to ECOSOC were discussed. Meeting attendees agreed the report’s outline should remain similar in structure to the Ad Hoc Interagency Task Force on Tobacco Control Report (E/2013/61). The report would convey the Task Force’s progress since publication of the last report in July 2013 and look to highlight the value added of the work of UN agencies to NCD
activities being taken forward by Member States. The Task Force, reflecting on ECOSOC Resolution E/2013/L.23, agreed that tobacco control should be specifically highlighted in the report. A timetable for developing the report was agreed by the participants.

Comments from the Director-General, WHO

15. The Director-General highlighted the importance of the NCD agenda and the opportunity that ECOSOC has provided through establishing the new Task Force. She reiterated the importance of the tobacco control. She also thanked members for their engagement and enthusiasm and their determination to work as one support to the implementation of the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020.

Future dates

16. The following dates were shared by WHO:

- 12-13 June 2014: ECOSOC coordination and management meeting (New York) will consider the Secretary-General’s report to ECOSOC on the implementation of resolution 2013/12;
- 16-17 June 2014: 3rd Meeting of the Task Force, New York, to be hosted by UNDP and co-chaired by WHO and UNDP.
Annex 1: List of Participants

SECOND MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES
29 – 30 JANUARY 2014
Salle C, WHO Geneva

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Sandra Alviles
Officer in Charge
Tel : +41 22 917 3635
Email : saviles@unog.ch

Silvano Sofia
Public Information and External Relations
Tel: +41 22 917 27 70
Email : sssofia@unog.ch
Liaison office with the UN in Geneva

International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)

David Allen
Director of Administration and Finance
Tel: +33 472 738467
Email: AllenD@iarc.fr

Kelm Olaf
Resource Mobilization & Grants Officer
Tel: +33 472 738494
Email: kelm@iarc.fr

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Jean-Pierre Cayol
Programme Coordinator
Tel : +43 1 2600-21567
Email: J.P.Cayol@iaea.org
Office of the Deputy Director General for Nuclear Sciences and Applications
Christophe Carle
Head
Tel:
Email: C.Carle@iaea.org

Beatrix Lahoupe
Programme Coordinator
Office of the Deputy Director General for Technical Cooperation
Tel:
Email: B.Lahoupe@iaea.org

International Development Law Organisation (IDLO)

John Burley
Chargé d’Affaires
Representative for Geneva Office
Tel. +1 22 734 4140
Email: jburley@idlo.int

International Labor Office (ILO)

Shengli Niu
Coordinator and Senior Specialist on Occupational Health Labour Inspection and OSH Branch
Tel: +41 22 799 6708
Email: niu@ilo.org

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Mario Castro Grande
External Affairs Officer
Strategic Planning and Membership Department
Tel: +41 22 730 5471
Email: mario.castrogrande@itu.int

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS(UNAIDS)

Peter Godfrey-Faussett
Senior Science Adviser
Office of the UNAIDS Science Panel
Tel : +41 22 791 4054
Email : GodfreyP@unaid.org

Celeste Sandoval
Science Adviser
Tel : +41 22 791 3188
Email : sandovalc@unaid.org

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
Kerida McDonald  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Communication for Development  
Tel: + 646 330 2371  
Email: kmcdonald@unicef.org

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Ahmad Mukhtar  
Economic Affairs Officer  
Int. Trade in Goods and Services and Commodities  
Tel: +41 22 917 5779  
Email: ahmad.mukhtar@unctad.org

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Dudley Tarlton  
Programme Specialist  
Bureau for Development Policy  
Tel: +41 22 917 8288  
Email: Dudley.Tarlton@undp.org

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Alexander Schischilk  
Team Leader  
Anti-Doping & Sport  
Tel: +33 145 684387  
Email: a.schischlik@unesco.org

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Mr Wondwosen Asnake  
Regional Coordinator  
Partnerships & Environment and Health  
Tel: +41 22 917 8158  
Email: Wondwosen.asnake@unep.org

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Lynn Gentile  
Human Rights Officer  
Tel: +41 22 928 9123  
Email: lgentile@ohchr.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Tel</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)</td>
<td>Heiko Hering</td>
<td>Tel : +41 22 739 8975</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:hering@unhcr.org">hering@unhcr.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)</td>
<td>Graham Alabaster</td>
<td>Tel: (254-20) 7623054</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:Graham.alabaster@unhabit.org">Graham.alabaster@unhabit.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNSDP)</td>
<td>Maria Blasco-Yago</td>
<td>Tel:</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:Mblasco-Yago@unog.ch">Mblasco-Yago@unog.ch</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)</td>
<td>Luc de Bernis</td>
<td>Tel: +41 79 619 8016</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:Debernis@unfpa.org">Debernis@unfpa.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UN SCN)</td>
<td>Lina Mahy</td>
<td>Tel: +41 22791 3544</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:mahyl@who.int">mahyl@who.int</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thahira Mustafa</td>
<td>Tel: +41 22791 3544</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:mustafat@who.int">mustafat@who.int</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lydia Durant
Tel: 
Email: lydia.durant@wfp.org

Fatiha Terki
Senior Policy Liaison Officer
Programme & Innovation Division
Tel: +41 22 317 8738
Email: fatiha.terki@wfp.org

World Bank (WB)

Oksana Pidufala
Policy Officer
Tel: 41 22 748 1017
Email: opidufala@worldbank.org

Monstserrat Meiro-Lorenzo
Senior Health Specialist
Tel: +1 202 473 0161
Email: mmeirolorenzo@worldbank.org

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Maria Soledad Iglesias-Vega
Program Officer
Department of External Relations
Tel:+4122 338 84 92
Email: marisol.iglesias@wipo.int

World Trade Organization(WTO)

Roger Kampf
Counsellor
Intellectual Property Division
Tel: +41 22 739 6218
Email: Roger.kampf@wto.org

Lauro Locks
Counsellor
Trade and Environment Division
Email: Lauro_Locks@wto.org
Jayashree Watal  
Counsellor  
Intellectual Property Division

Erik Wijkstrom  
Counsellor  
Trade and Environment Division

**WHO Framework Convention Tobacco Control Convention Secretariat (WHO FCTC)**

Vijay Trivedi  
Coordinator  
WHO FCTC

**World Health Organization (WHO)**

Timothy Armstrong  
Coordinator  
Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health

Yulia Bakonia  
Technical Officer  
Office of the Assistant Director-General,  
Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health

Nick Banatvala  
Senior Adviser  
Office of the Assistant Director-General,  
Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health

Douglas Bettcher  
Director  
Prevention of Noncommunicable Diseases

Email: Jayashree.Watal@wto.org  
Email: Erik.Wijkstrom@wto.org  
Email: trivediv@who.int  
Email: armstrongt@who.int  
Email: bakoninay@who.int  
Email: banatvalan@who.int  
Email: bettcherd@who.int
Oleg Chestnov  
Assistant Director-General, Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health  
Tel:+41 22 791 2723  
Email: chestnovo@who.int

Marie-Agnes Heine  
Writer  
Department of Communications  
Tel :+ 41 22 79 12710  
Email: heinem@who.int

Bente Mikkelsen  
Senior Adviser  
Office of the Assistant Director-General, Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health  
Tel :+41 22 791 3655  
Email: mikkelsenb@who.int

Werner Obermeyer  
External Relations Officer  
WHO Office at the UN  
New York  
Tel: +1 646 626 6046  
Email: obermeyerw@who.int

Anne-Marie Perucic  
Technical Officer  
Prevention of Noncommunicable Diseases  
Tel:+41 22 791 2362  
Email: perucica@who.int

Vladimir Poznyak  
Coordinator  
Management of Substance Abuse  
Tel:+41 22 791 4307  
Email: poznyakv@who.int

Arne-Petter Sanne  
Adviser  
Management of Noncommunicable Diseases  
Tel:+41 22 791 2752  
Email: sanne@who.int

Edouard Tursan d’Espaignet  
Coordinator  
Prevention of Noncommunicable Diseases  
Tel:+41 22 791 4473  
Email: tursandespaignet@who.int

Andreas Ulrich  
Medical Officer  
Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health  
Tel:+41 22 791 1292  
Email: ullricha@who.int
Annex 2: Agenda

SECOND MEETING OF THE UN TASK FORCE ON THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NCDS
29-30 JANUARY 2014
SALLE C, WHO GENEVA

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 29 January 2014
Moderator: Mr Werner Obermeyer, Senior External Relations Officer, WHO Office at the UN

09:00 – 09:15 Welcome and introductions and review of meeting notes of 2-3 Oct. 13
Dr Oleg Chestnov, ADG, NMH

09:15 – 09:45 Outcomes of the 11-15 November 2013 meetings of Member States and WHO Executive Board (20-25 January 2014) discussions on:
(i) the draft terms of reference for the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs;
(ii) the draft terms of reference for a global coordination mechanism on the prevention and control of NCDs;
(iii) a limited set of action plan indicators for the WHO global action plan for the prevention and control of NCDs 2013-2020 and implications for the UN Task Force;
(iv) sequencing of reports by WHO and evaluations; and
(v) priority actions recommended for Member States
Update on ongoing discussions on the preparations for the UN General Assembly NCD Review in 2014
Drs Douglas Bettcher and Nick Banatvala, WHO and followed by discussion

09:45 – 10:15 Update from agencies
All

10:15 – 10:30 Report to ECOSOC. Outline, key messages, timetable and process
Werner Obermeyer and followed by discussion

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 11:45 Update on a one-WHO NCD work plan and its implications for the UN Task Force. Dr Bente Mikkelsen, WHO and followed by discussion
Thursday, 30 January 2014
Moderator: Mr Werner Obermeyer, Senior External Relations Officer, WHO Office at the United Nations

09:00 – 09:30  Summary of Day 1
Mr Werner Obermeyer

09:30 – 10:00  Issues arising from EB/2013/61 (Ad hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control Report of the Secretary-General)
Dr Douglas Bettcher and followed by discussion

10:00 – 10:30  Update on the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control since March 2013 meeting
Dr Vijay Trivedi, Convention Secretariat, WHO FCTC and followed by discussion

10:30 – 11:00  Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30  Agency update since the last meeting in March 2013
All

12:30 – 13:30  Lunch

13:30 – 14:30  Tobacco and reproductive health: clinical guidelines and implications for UN agencies
Dr Edouard Tursan D’Espaignet

14:30 – 16:00  Round table discussion: governance as an overarching obligation in line with Article 5 of the Convention (facilitated by Convention Secretariat) (includes coffee break)
16:00 – 17:00

- Review of the UN IATF work plan for 2014-2015: update in the light of Day 2 discussions
- Report to ECOSOC: update on outline, key messages, timetable and process in the light of Day 2 discussions