



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

(Geneva, 26-27 October 2015)

INFORMAL SUMMARY OF THE MEETING

1. The Fifth Meeting of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (the Task Force) was convened by the Secretariat of the Task Force and held from 26 to 27 October 2015 at WHO in Geneva. The meeting was co-chaired by WHO and the World Bank and was attended by colleagues from: FAO, IARC, IAEA, IDLO, ILO, IOC, ITU, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNSCN, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOSDP, UNOSSC, UNU-IIGH, UN Women, WFP, WHO, the World Bank, CSF (WHO FCTC) and WTO. The list of participants and agenda are in Annexes 1 and 2.
2. The main objectives of the meeting were:
 - (i) To review progress on the 2014-2015 work plan and agree on a process for finalizing the 2016-2017 work plan;
 - (ii) To review progress on global joint programmes and resource mobilization;
 - (iii) To review the progress and impact of joint programming missions and develop plans for future missions; and
 - (iv) To allow Task Force Members the opportunity to share updates on new developments.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS TO DATE

3. Members reviewed progress on actions agreed in the Fourth Task Force meeting (11-13 February 2015). Members were briefed on the Task Force's 2015 report to ECOSOC (E/2015/53) and resolution adopted at ECOSOC (E/RES/2015/8), as well as the key outcomes of the 68th World Health Assembly (Geneva, 18-26 May 2015), the Third UN International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, 13-16 July 2015), and the UN Summit for Sustainable Development (New York, 25-27 September 2015).
4. Members were also briefed on the status of pending global assignments for WHO and OECD/DAC included in the 2014 UN Outcome Document on NCDs, as well as the status of the implementation of actions included in the work plan 2014/2015 for the WHO GCM/NCD.
5. There was also a proposal to explore the possibility of creating synergies with actions for road safety, taking into account the relationship between rapid urbanization, NCDs and road traffic crashes, pending the outcomes of the second Global High-level Meeting on Road Safety (Brasilia, 18-19 November 2015), including by integrating these into the future work of the Task Force.

Action:

- *At its 6th meeting, the Task Force to review the pros and cons for establishing a Thematic Group for Road Safety as a part of the work of the Task Force, taking into account the Brasilia Declaration on Road Safety adopted by the Second Global High-level Conference on Road Safety (WHO to develop a paper setting out the pros and cons for a decision at the 6th Task Force meeting).*

TASK FORCE AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

6. Members received an update on the WHO Global NCD Progress Monitor 2015¹ which had been launched in New York during a side event at the UN Summit for Sustainable Development. The Monitor showed that progress made by countries (measured against 18 indicators) in implementing the four time-bound commitments (targets, national plans, risk factors, health systems) included in the 2014 UN Political Declaration on NCDs and to be attained by December 2016 had been largely insufficient (as the majority of countries had only fully achieved 3 out of 18 indicators) and that bolder measures were needed to fully implement the time-bound commitments by December 2016.
7. Members received a summary of Joint Programming Missions held since the fourth Task Force meeting and received updates from countries that had hosted missions. There was agreement that there was an urgent need for catalytic funds to accelerate action to help governments implement the recommendations made by the Joint Programming Missions and that donors should be alerted to this need. The provision of such funds could also support the financing of the fielding of the Joint Programming Missions themselves. Members were updated on recommendations from WHO Regional Offices on possible future missions, including to Burkina Faso, Cambodia, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, India (follow-up), Indonesia, Moldova, Mozambique (follow-up), Namibia, Nepal, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Tunisia, Turkey, and Zambia.
8. Members were updated on the publication of the guidance note on how to include NCDs into UNDAFs and the webinars that had taken place. Progress on UNDP/WHO UNCT survey was shared.
9. The World Bank shared its experience on governments requesting World Bank loans to implement national NCD responses and Members discussed how to maximize their engagement in supporting governments to develop applications for such loans and engaging in activities to support the implementation of these loans, once approved.
10. The need to accelerate the establishment of resident UN Country Team-led UN Thematic Groups on NCDs were discussed. It was agreed that the Task Force would continue to promote their establishment, or incorporate NCDs into existing resident Thematic Groups (e.g. on Health, HIV/AIDS, or Reproductive Health). The need to develop a guidance note for UN Country Teams on how to establish such thematic groups was also discussed, including draft terms of reference.
11. Members also discussed the necessity in a coming years to monitor how the inclusion of NCDs into UNDAFs contributes to the development and implementation of national NCD responses, including NCD outcome.

Action:

- *Upload the checklist used for Joint Programming Missions on to EZ Collab (Task Force Secretariat).*
- *Explore donor interest in establishing a trust fund to support Joint Programming Missions and their follow up in a similar way to the FCTC Needs Assessment Missions (WHO and UNDP, with support from other Members that have been involved in these missions).*

¹ <http://www.who.int/nmh/media/ncd-progress-monitor/en/> and <http://www.who.int/nmh/events/2015/getting-to-2018/en/> and <http://www.who.int/nmh/25-September-2015-side-event-NCDs-update-2.pdf?ua=1>

- *Provide feedback to countries on progress reports submitted and refine reporting template, taking into account the 2015 WHO Global NCD Progress Monitor (Task Force Secretariat).*
- *Continue to promote UNCTs to establish resident UN Thematic Groups on NCDs (or equivalent mechanisms) (all UNIATF members) and develop a guidance note for UN Country Teams on how to establish such thematic groups (or equivalent), including draft terms of reference (WHO and UNDP).*
- *Finalize the UNDP/WHO survey for UN Country Teams, taking into account the need to ask questions about the availability of funding at country level through domestic, bilateral and multilateral channels (WHO and UNDP).*
- *The World Bank shared the project preparation process and opportunities for members to provide technical assistance for countries to include NCDs in World Bank financing. The financing is country driven and members should work with the technical staff within Ministries of Health to include NCDs as a top priority.*

TASK FORCE : WORKING AS ONE

12. Taking into account paragraphs 22 to 24 of the Terms of Reference of the Task Force (on conflicts of interest), the Convention Secretariat of the FCTC presented an overview of recent incidents of conflicts and interest between the tobacco industry and UN organizations. Members discussed these issues. During the discussions, WHO and the Convention Secretariat reiterated that, while Members of the Task Force are guided by their own relevant conflict of interest policies, paragraph 38 of the 2011 UN Political Declaration on NCDs recognized the fundamental conflict of interest between the tobacco industry and public health.
13. Reports of progress of the two regional UN Thematic Groups on NCDs (i.e. European and Pacific Islands) were received. Members updated the Task Force on progress in raising the priority given to NCDs on their respective governing body agendas or strategies. UNAIDS, UNDP and UNICEF described how NCDs were reflected in strategies that have recently been developed or are in the process of being developed.

Action:

- *In accordance with the ToRs of the Task Force, the Convention Secretariat of the WHO FCTC and the Secretariat of the Task Force to continue discussions with Task Force Members on eliminating the fundamental conflict of interest by engaging with the tobacco industry or groups funded by the tobacco industry (CSF, WHO).*
- *Members to continue to raise the priority given to NCDs on the agendas of the Governing Bodies (all Members with the Secretariat providing technical and political support as required).*
- *UNDP and UNICEF to keep Members informed on the finalization of strategies on health and on opportunities for engaging in the process of finalizing these strategies (UNDP, UNICEF).*
- *Development of a factsheet on NCDs, gender and human rights (OHCHR, UN Women, WHO).*

UPDATE ON GLOBAL JOINT PROGRAMMES

14. Members were updated on the implementation of the existing ITU/WHO Global Joint Programme on mHealth and NCDs. Members were also updated on the progress made in finalizing the development of three other global joint programmes: (1) Towards Joint UN Action on Cancer Control, (2) Helping Countries to Address Cervical Cancer, and (3) Catalyzing Multisectoral Action for NCDs beyond the health sector. It was agreed that these three global joint programmes will be finalized in accordance with the UN Development Group Guidance Note on Joint Programmes². It was also agreed that fundraising for these programmes was a priority.
15. UNDP and WHO briefed the Task Force on plans to develop specific guidance notes to support governments in mobilizing sectors beyond health to contribute to the attainment of the NCD-related targets included in the SDGs.

Action:

- *Finalize the three joint global programmes into full-fledged cooperation agreements and identify donors to provide funds (All joint global programmes partners).*
- *Develop an overarching brief and set of sectoral policy briefs to highlight how sectors beyond health can contribute to the NCD-related targets in the SDG (WHO, UNDP, WB, with the support of other Task Force members).*

UPDATE FROM THE GLOBAL UN THEMATIC GROUP ON REDUCING THE HARMFUL USE OF ALCOHOL (WHO GLOBAL STRATEGY TO REDUCE THE HARMFUL USE OF ALCOHOL)

16. The Global UN Thematic Group on Reducing the Harmful Use of Alcohol was established at the Fourth Meeting of the Task Force in February 2015 to scale up technical assistance provided by UN organizations in a coordinated manner to support national efforts to implement the WHO Global Strategy on the Harmful Use of Alcohol and the NCD- and alcohol-related targets included in the SDGs. The Group briefed the Members on its work plan for 2016-2017.

Action:

- *Formalize the current informal collaborative arrangements of the Global UN Thematic Group on Reducing the Harmful Use of Alcohol with a view to implement its work plan 2016-2017 (WHO, UNDP and other members of the Thematic Group).*
- *Complete the mapping of Task Force members' activities on the harmful use of alcohol (WHO and UNDP).*
- *Implement the activities included in the work plan 2016-2017 of the UN Global Thematic Group on Reducing the Harmful Use of Alcohol, including the convening of the meeting for African countries in February 2016 (all relevant Task Force members).*
- *Development of a factsheet on trade and alcohol (WHO and WTO).*

² <http://www.who.int/nmh/25-September-2015-side-event-NCDs-update-2.pdf?ua=1>

- *Develop a proposal on how to integrate action to address the adverse effects of alcohol on breastfeeding in existing national nutrition mechanisms (UNSCN).*
- *Develop a guidance note for governments on how to prevent economic alcohol operators to influence national public health policies (WHO, UNDP).*

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY: ENHANCING ACTION ACROSS THE TASK FORCE

17. Members were briefed by WHO on opportunities to enhance workplace physical activity. It was recommended that, in the first instance, Members show leadership by encouraging physical activity in the work place among UN employees at UN organizations. The WHO Physical Activity Toolkit is available as a guide.
18. UNOSDP informed Members about the 6th International Conference of Ministers for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS) to be held in 2017.

Action:

- *Introduce a healthy workplace approach at UN organizations to encourage physical activity among all UN employees (all Task Force members, with WHO providing guidance as requested and collating progress).*
- *Explore opportunities to raise the priority given to addressing physical inactivity in national agendas through the 6th International Conference of Ministers for Physical Education and Sport (UNOSDP and UNESCO).*

TOBACCO CONTROL

19. Members received a progress report on actions identified during the 4th meeting, as well as actions discussed during an informal meeting among a number of interested Members held on 4 June 2015 to agree further roles and responsibilities.

Action:

- *Develop a report for the sixth meeting on how to raise the awareness on the international health-financing concept prepared by WHO in 2011 to establish a Solidarity Tobacco Contribution (STC)³ to finance the implementation of national responses to the NCD-related targets in the SDGs (WHO and CSF).*
- *Finalize the tobacco component of the Task Force's work plan 2016-2017 (CSF in collaboration with all Task Force members).*

TASK FORCE WORK PLAN 2014-2015

20. The Members reviewed the progress made in implementing the 2014-2015 work plan and agreed to develop a final progress report.

³ http://www.who.int/nmh/events/un_ncd_summit2011/ncds_stc.pdf

Action:

- *Report against the 2014-2015 work plan by the end of the year (all relevant Task Force members) with Task Force Secretariat sharing a template by mid-November.*

TASK FORCE WORK PLAN FOR 2016-2017

21. Options for the structuring of the 2016-2017 work plan were discussed and plans of its finalization agreed. In particular, it was agreed to focus on a small set of high-level strategic priorities, e.g. implementation of global joint programmes, development of a fast-track country initiative, and design of a global strategic communication package to promote the work of the Task Force and its Members (the latter will take into account the global communications campaign on the NCD-related targets in the SDGs being developed by the WHO GCM/NCD as part of its work plan 2016/2017). A separate annex to the work plan would list all details.

Action:

- *Members to submit joint activities to the UNIATF Secretariat by 30 November 2015 (all Task Force members).*
- *UNIATF Secretariat to share a draft with Members by the end of the 2015 for review with a final draft being developed for sign off at a teleconference in early 2016 (UNIATF Secretariat).*

NCDs IN EMERGENCIES

19. Members were updated on work being taken forward by relevant UN organizations to address NCDs in humanitarian emergencies. NCDs are the leading health problem among refugees and displaced persons across the world. WHO and UNHCR are currently finalising a publication on the topic. The possibility to add NCD-specific essential technologies (e.g. to measure hypertension, diabetes or similar) in the emergency kit was also discussed.

Action:

- *Provide comments on the discussion paper on addressing NCDs in humanitarian emergencies prepared by WHO and UNHCR by 13 November 2015 (all Members).*

UPDATES

20. WHO GCM/NCD described the activities included in its work plans 2014-2015 and 2016-2017. The GCM will convene a Dialogue on how to strengthen international cooperation on the prevention and control of NCDs within the framework of North–South, South–South and triangular cooperation (Geneva, 30 November – 1 December 2015)⁴. The Dialogue will provide an opportunity to discuss the role of international cooperation in ensuring that countries can attain the NCD-related targets in the SDGs by 2030, including to, by 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from NCDs. Members were invited to attend the Dialogue.

⁴ <http://www.who.int/global-coordination-mechanism/dialogues/en/>

21. WHO informed about preparations of the 9th WHO Global Conference on Health Promotion to be held in Shanghai, China, 21-25 November 2016. The theme of the conference will be how governments can attain the health-related SDGs. Conference arrangements are ongoing. Members were invited to join the preparatory process.
22. Members were informed about the preliminary discussions which have been ongoing to explore the possibilities of convening a 2nd WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and NCD Control in 2016 or 2017. The Conference may be preceded by a General Meeting of the WHO GCM/NCD.
23. Members were briefed by WHO on the timelines leading to the Third UN High-level Meeting on NCDs, which will be convened by the UN General Assembly in 2018 to take stock of national progress made in implementing the commitments included in the 2011 UN Political Declaration and 2014 UN Outcome Document on NCDs.
24. UNICEF updated the Members on the Facts for Life chapter on Healthy Living for the Prevention and Control of NCDs in Young People. UNICEF plans to send a further iteration for comment to those Members that have been involved in developing the chapter.
25. IDLO gave an update on plans to convene a Thematic Discussion on NCDs and Law in New York on Tuesday 9 February 2016, prior to the 6th Task Force meeting. A background paper is being developed. Task Force members were encouraged to participate in the development of the paper and to attend the session.
26. UNAIDS informed members of plans for a full day symposium in the spring of 2016 on NCDs and HIV to be co-organized by UNAIDS and the New York Academy of Sciences. Task Force members were encouraged to participate in the symposium.

Action:

- Participate in the preparatory process leading up to the 9th WHO Global Conference on Health Promotion in Shanghai in November 2016 (all Task Force members).
- Participate in the upcoming WHO GCM/NCD Dialogue on NCDs and International Development Cooperation (Geneva, 30 November-1 December 2015), as well as all other relevant activities included in the work plan 2016-2017 of the WHO GCM/NCD (all Task Force members).
- Provide inputs for the first Thematic Session on Law and NCDs (New York, 9 February 2016) (all Task Force members).
- Circulate a draft concept note for inputs on how to frame NCDs and law, in preparation for the Thematic Session on 9 February 2016 (IDLO).
- Finalize the Facts for Life chapter (UNICEF), including clearances and comments by the end of 2015 (all Task Force members).
- Inform Members of the date of the symposium (UNAIDS).

UN CAUCUS TO PREPARE FOR THE WHO GCM/NCD DIALOGUE

27. A special session during the meeting was held in preparation for the WHO GCM/NCD Dialogue on how to strengthen North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation for NCDs (Geneva, 30 November - 1 December 2015). This session was facilitated by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation. The outcomes of the discussion will be reported by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation at the Dialogue.

ADOPTION OF DATES AND VENUES FOR 2016 TASK FORCE MEETINGS

28. The 6th Task Force meeting will be held from 10 to 12 February 2016 in New York, and will be hosted by UNDP. The 7th Task Force meeting will be held in September or early October 2016.

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Annex 1: List of Participants

Fifth Meeting of the UN Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs 26-27 October 2015, Geneva

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS (Agencies and individuals in alphabetical order)

[Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\)](#)

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UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) Secretariat

[United Nations University International Institute for Global Health \(UNU-IIGH\)](#)

Obijiofor Aginam

Senior Research Fellow and Head of Governance for Global Health, Kuala Lumpur

[United Nations Woman \(UN Women\)](#)

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[World Bank](#)

Patrick Lumumba Osewe

Global Leader, Healthy Societies

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Alli Mikkulainen

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Fatiha Terki

Senior Policy Officer, Nutrition and HIV-AIDS –UNAIDS partnership

[WHO Framework Convention Tobacco Control](#)

Carmen Audera-Lopez

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*Not including all resources persons who will only attend technical sessions

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Annex 2: Agenda

Fifth Meeting of the UN Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs 26-27 October 2015 Held at the WHO Headquarters, Geneva

Agenda

Chair

Oleg Chestnov, ADG, Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health Cluster, WHO

Moderators

Werner Obermeyer, Deputy Executive Director, WHO Office at the United Nations

Patrick Lumumba Osewe, Global Leader, Health Societies, World Bank

DAY 1: Monday 26 October 2015

09:00-09:20	Welcome and introductions
Agenda item 1 09:20-10:20	Update on progress to date <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of summary of the Fourth UNIATF meeting, 11-13 February 2015• UNIATF 2015 report to ECOSOC (E/2015/53) and resolution (E/RES/2015/8)• Strategic overview of the outcomes of recent UN Conferences and Summits and the World Health Assembly , status update on pending global assignments, and their relevance for the Task Force. This will include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Outcomes of the 68th World Health Assembly (18 – 26 May 2015)- Outcomes of the Third UN International Conference on financing for Development (13-16 July 2015)- Outcomes of the UN Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda (25-27 September 2015)- Status of pending global assignments given by UNGA to WHO- Status of pending global assignments given by WHO to GCM/NCD

Agenda item 2 10:20-12:00 (including 20 min coffee break)	UNIATF at the country level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint programming missions held between 4th and 5th Task Force meetings • Update from countries that have received earlier missions • Plans for future missions • Disseminating the guidance note on how to include NCDs into UNDAFs • Progress in getting NCDs into UNDAFs • Progress on UNDP-WHO UNCT survey • How to maximize the impact of World Bank loans for NCDs • Standard terms of reference for the resident UN Thematic Groups on NCDs
Agenda item 3 12:00-13:00	UNIATF: working as one <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing the fundamental conflict of interest between the tobacco industry and the provisions included in the FCTC
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
Agenda item 3 (cont.) 14:00-14:30	UNIATF: working as one <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Task Forces reports • Progress on getting NCDs on the agendas of governing bodies of UN agencies
Agenda item 4 14:30- 15:00	Update on Global Joint Programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mHealth (ITU and WHO) • Cancer control (IAEA, IARC and WHO) • Cervical cancer (IAEA, IARC, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, UNWOMEN, WB and WHO) • Catalysing multisectoral action for NCDs (UNDP and WHO) • Strengthen legal environments to address obesity, diabetes and to promote healthy diets and physical activity (IDLO and WHO)
Agenda item 5 15.00-15.30	WHO Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from the Thematic Group on Reducing the Harmful Use of Alcohol
15:30-15:50	<i>Coffee</i>
Agenda item 6 15:50-16:35	Support to Member States in increasing physical activity: enhancing action across the UNIATF
Agenda item 7 16:35-17:00	UNIATF work plan 2014-15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on progress • Final reporting

DAY 2: Tuesday 27 October 2015

Agenda item 8 09:00-10:00	Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO Global Coordination Mechanism • 9th WHO Global Conference on Health Promotion (21-25 November 2016, Shanghai) • Second WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and NCD Control, preceded by the General Meeting of the GCM/NCD (November 2017) • Third UN High-level Meeting on NCDs (2018) • UNICEF Facts for Life publication • 2016 Thematic discussion on NCDs and Law <p><i>Others to be notified in advance – depending on number of updates this session may need to be extended by 30 mins.</i></p>
Agenda item 9 10:00-11:30 (including 20 min coffee break)	Tobacco Control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up to the actions identified in the 4th meeting and the informal 4 June 2015 meeting
Agenda item 10 11:30 – 12.45	UNIATF work plan for 2016-2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of actions submitted • Process for finalization
Agenda item 11 12:45-13:00	Noncommunicable Disease in emergencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on progress
13:00-14:00	Lunch
Agenda item 12 14:00-15:30	Preparation for the WHO GCM/NCD - dialogue on how to strengthen North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation for NCDs to be held 30 November – 1 December 2015*
Agenda item 13 15:30-16:30	Finalisation of action points and recommendations
Agenda item 14 16:30-16:45	Adoption of dates and venues for 2016 UNIATF meetings
Agenda item 15 16:45-17:00	Wrap up and concluding remarks

* Note: This session is in place of a meeting that the WHO GCM/NCD has asked the Task Force Secretariat to host on Sunday 29 November in Geneva for UN Task Force members in preparation for the WHO GCM/NCD dialogue on how to strengthen North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation for NCDs which is being held on 30 November and 1 December 2015.