
FRIENDS OF THE TASK FORCE

In 2016, a small number of countries came together during the United Nations General Assembly in order to establish a group called the “**Friends of the Task Force**”. The “Friends” provide an informal network of likeminded partners working to enhance action on NCDs.

A Friend of the Task Force means being a partner, supporter and champion of the Task Force and its work at global, regional and/or country level. Friends can include governments and other development partners, such as civil society organizations, academic institutions, philanthropic foundations and more.

Friends of the Task Force:

- ✚ Promote an effective UN system response in supporting countries prevent and control NCDs and improve mental health and wellbeing through multisectoral, whole-of-government and whole-of-society action as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- ✚ Work with the Task Force to raise financing for the prevention and control of NCDs as part of the broader SDG response;
- ✚ Work together to achieve universal health coverage;
- ✚ Identify synergies between their priorities and the work of the Task Force;
- ✚ Collaborate with the Task Force by identifying and providing technical assistance to support its programmatic work, including its global joint programmes;
- ✚ Share progress on the work and activities of the Task Force.

Friends also:

- ✚ Provide advice on the strategic direction of the Task Force and its work;
- ✚ Contribute to enhancing the effectiveness and coherence of the UN system through an innovative cost-effective platform;
- ✚ Encourage an SDG response that is truly integrated;
- ✚ Provide catalytic support to help countries deliver on their global and country-level commitments to tackle NCDs and improve mental health and wellbeing within the broader context of sustainable development.

Current Friends of the Task Force include the European Commission and the governments of Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

All countries that have received joint programming missions or are partners in the global joint programmes are de facto Friends of the Task Force.

Examples of how Friends are helping the Task Force

Barbados: took global leadership in using a Task Force investment case to advocate for scaled up action on NCDs.

European Commission: arranged a series of dialogues with country-based colleagues and Commission Directorates-General on the work of the Task Force and has funded the WHO and ITU joint initiative Be He@lthy Be Mobile to setup a mHealth innovations and knowledge hub.

Japan: participated in joint programming missions and provided funding for following up recommendations in a number of countries.

Mozambique: showed political commitment following a Task Force joint programming mission in ratifying the WHO FCTC.

Russian Federation: led the establishment of the Task Force, a series of ECOSOC resolutions, have hosted UN and WHO side events, and provided funding for the UN global joint programme on catalyzing national multisectoral action.

Sri Lanka: took rapid action in tackling NCDs after hosting a Task Force Mission, with the President chairing the First Friends of the Task Force meeting during the 2016 UN General Assembly.

United States: hosted a partnership forum in Washington DC to drive forward the work of the UN global joint programme on cervical cancer.

Zambia: made significant progress following a recent joint programming mission and has launched the mCervicalCancer program as one of the 10 countries implementing various mHealth programs under the Be He@lthy Be Mobile initiative.

For more information about becoming a Friend please email:
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Follow the work of the Task Force on the web:
www.who.int/ncds/un-task-force/en

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