COVID-19

The resolution "notes with great concern the threat to human health caused by COVID-19, recognizing that people living with NCDs are more susceptible to the risk of developing severe COVID-19 symptoms and are among the hardest hit by the pandemic."

The resolution "calls upon the members of the Task Force to work together to identify additional technical resources to enhance their support to Member States in line with the Task Force strategy for 2019–2021, paying particular attention to the needs of Member States during their COVID-19 response and recovery."

NCD and mental health multi-partner trust fund

The resolution encourages development partners to support the Fund. The Fund in the first instance will support countries to address NCDs and mental health as part of COVID-19 response and recovery.

Tobacco control

The resolution encourages members of the Task Force to continue to develop and implement their own policies on preventing tobacco industry interference.

Universal health coverage

The resolution calls upon the Task Force to:

"Strengthen its capacity to provide technical and policy advice to Governments to implement multisectoral strategies and enhance multi-stakeholder action, including with the private sector to strengthen national NCD responses and to achieve UHC, including through:

- maintaining essential health-care services and their timely delivery;
- providing evidence-based digital health programmes;
- promoting research and development of and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable diagnostics, therapeutics, essential medicines, vaccines and other health technologies;
- strengthening health systems, including regulatory frameworks and good supply chain management;
- improving regulatory and legal frameworks that promote favourable health outcomes for NCDs, in particular promoting improved nutrition, healthy diets and lifestyles."

The resolution requests the Task Force to pay particular attention to people living with or at risk of developing NCDs in vulnerable situations.

Supporting countries to catalyze action on NCDs and mental health both during and beyond COVID-19 is crucial to restoring progress on SDGs and to building back better.

Annual ECOSOC resolutions

- 2014: Endorses the Task Force's ToRs
- 2015: Encourages the Task Force to scale-up action in countries
- 2016: Expands the work of the Task Force to the NCD-related SDGs
- 2017: Calls for greater financing for the work of the Task Force
- 2018: Calls for development of partnerships to achieve public health goals
- 2019: Encourages establishment of an NCD and mental health multi-partner trust fund

* Click here to access the resolution