
Third Information Session on the Global Strategy on the Economics of Health for All

Power point version 28 August 2025

02 September 2025

14:00 – 16:00 CET

Objectives of this information session


1. Recall the **ambition** of the EHfA agenda (Council and WHA 77.13)
2. Provide updates on the **development process** of the global strategy on the economics of health for all (GSEHfA)
3. Present the **outline** of the Draft 1 of the EHfA Strategy, including revisions
4. Provide **guidance** to Member States on how to share their inputs (perspectives and comments) on the GSEHfA draft 1
5. Discuss together the **implications of the new context** (WHO prioritization)
6. Answer **clarification** questions

The Council

- Established by DG in November **2020**
- Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic
- Need to rethink how health for all is valued, measured, produced and distributed across the economy
- Final Council report “*Health for All – transforming economies to deliver what matters*”, launched in May 2023 at the 76th World Health Assembly
- 13 recommendations under 4 pillars

<https://www.who.int/groups/who-council-on-the-economics-of-health-for-all>



 A new understanding on health and the economy, structured across a **new framework** for reorienting our economies to deliver Health for All, is built on four interrelated pillars (28).



 VALUING HEALTH FOR ALL

 FINANCING HEALTH FOR ALL

 INNOVATING FOR HEALTH FOR ALL

 STRENGTHENING PUBLIC SECTOR
CAPACITY FOR HEALTH FOR ALL

WHA77.13 Resolution on the Economics of health for all

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to develop, in consultation with Member States and within available resources as appropriate, **a strategy on how to implement an economics of health for all approach, including priority actions** for Member States and other actors, for consideration by the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly in 2026, through the Executive Board at its 158th session;

(2) to **develop and sustain a cross-cutting programme of work on economics and health for all**, within existing resources as appropriate, including strategic, normative, advocacy, technical, analytical and engagement components, within the WHO Health Finance and Economics programme area, including increasing the expertise and capacity of the Secretariat at all levels on economic issues and cross-cutting issues, including gender equality and contributing to the eradication of poverty, inter alia;

(3) to consider, as appropriate, the final report of the WHO Council on the Economics of Health for All, with relevance at national, regional and global levels, to advance an economics of health for all approach;

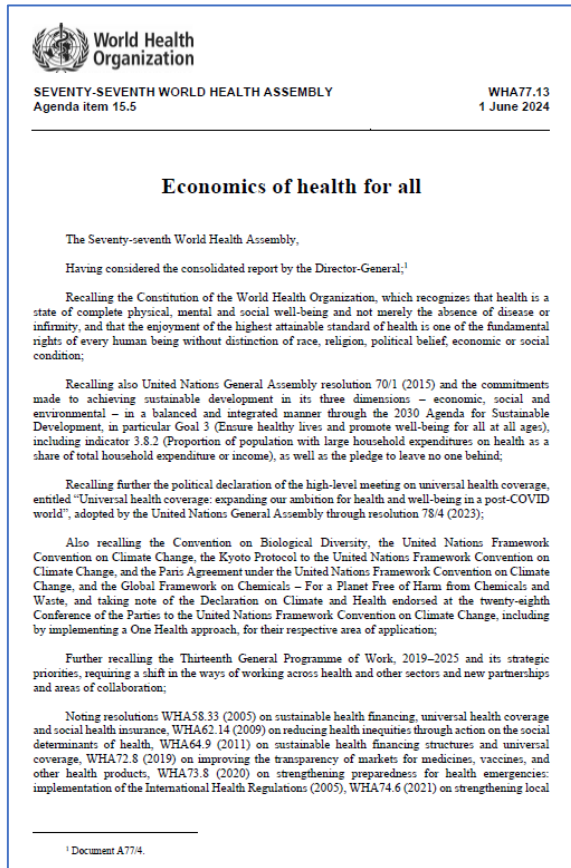
(4) to support **strengthening the capacity of national health authorities** with the aim to **better engage and negotiate with finance and other sectors**, towards an economics of health for all in national policies, and **negotiations with regional and global actors**;

(5) to provide **technical support** to countries on **domestic resource mobilization** and **other fiscally sustainable ways** to finance the progressive realization of the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including **financing universal health coverage and primary health care**, as well as addressing **broader social determinants of health**, and ensuring **health systems strengthening, preparedness and resilience**;

(6) to work with Member States, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and other relevant United Nations specialized agencies to define key messages on the economics of health for all and to bring them into the preparation **process of future United Nations conferences, as critically important components of sustainable development**;

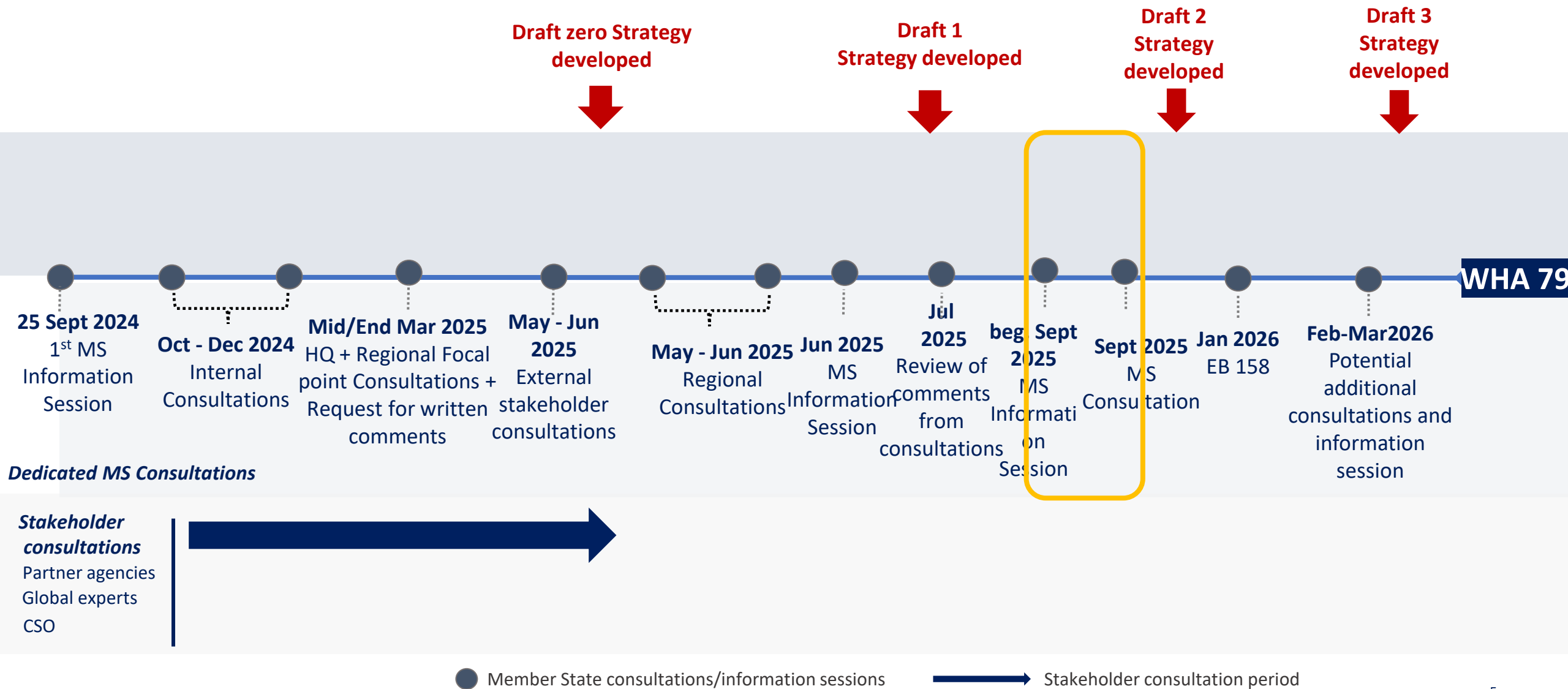
(7) to **strengthen country offices' access to expertise to provide technical support**, at the request of Member States, to engage with finance and other sectors, towards economics of health for all in national policies, including through capacity-building via the WHO Academy and WHO collaborating centres;

(8) to **report** on the implementation of this resolution to the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly in **2026**, through the Executive Board at its 158th session, and then to submit progress reports to the Eighty-first and Eighty-third World Health Assemblies in **2028** and **2030**, respectively.



[WHA77.13 Resolution on the Economics of health for all](#)

2026 Strategy development process and timeline (revised)



Strategy Draft 1 Content

Introduction

- Persistent inequalities challenge the achievements of Agenda 2030
 - Status of progress towards SDG3 – access and financial hardship, and other health-related goals
 - Contribution of health to poverty reduction
 - Contribution of health to economies, including in emergencies
- Progress in health and wellbeing for all further challenged by deep transformations of economic, social and environmental dimensions.
 - Debt and fiscal constraints, technological change, climate
- Interdependence between health and economic systems between and within countries

What's new in this global strategy?

- Transformative potential of an Economics of Health for All (EHfA) approach
- EHfA shapes how economic systems influence health, and vice versa, providing a foundation for effective policy and action.
- The EHfA recognizes economics as being essential to shaping and assessing policies that advance health and health equity.
- It promotes coordinated actions across all sectors and levels of government and with non-government actors to develop and implement economic and health policies that mutually strengthen each other while minimizing bi-directional harm.
- EHfA requires fundamental shifts for the long-term transformation of economic and health systems, but immediate actions guided by EHfA objectives can also make a difference, not just for today but also for future generations.

Foundations



VALUING HEALTH FOR ALL

We need to value and measure the things that truly matter – human and planetary flourishing – rather than pursuing economic growth and gross domestic product (GDP) maximization regardless of the consequences. To achieve Health for All, governments must rethink value and reshape and redirect the economy based on social and planetary wellbeing, guided by new metrics (29).

FINANCING HEALTH FOR ALL

A fundamental overhaul of national and international systems for financing health is needed, so that spending on health is treated as a long-term investment. This is another reason to reinforce the importance of a pandemic accord across governments (30). Delivering Health for All will require both more money and higher quality financing (31).

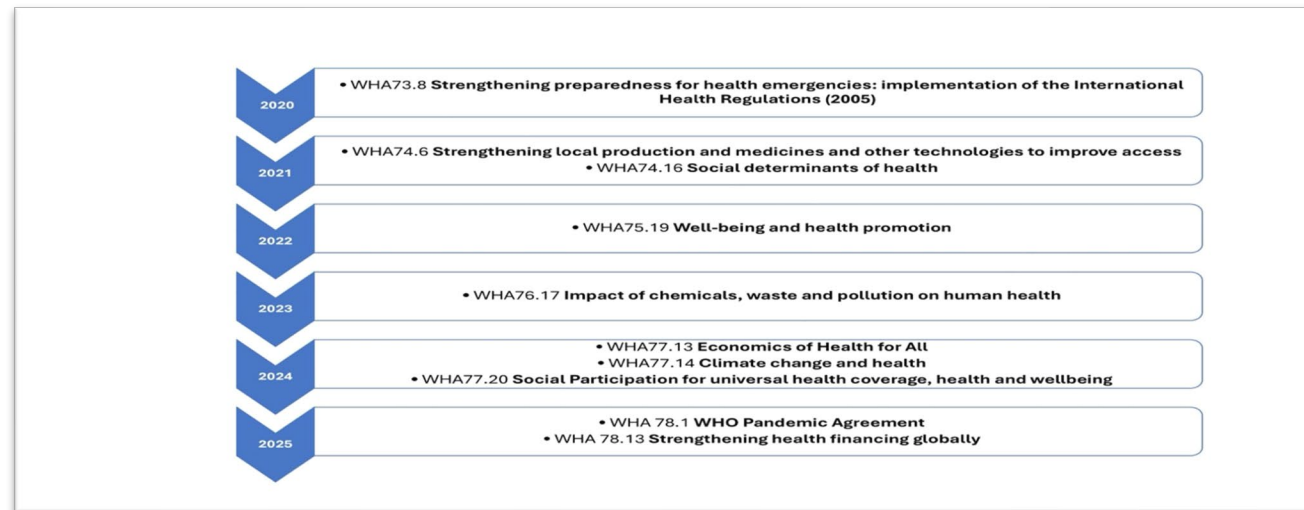
INNOVATING FOR HEALTH FOR ALL

Innovation requires collective intelligence – it is never the fruit of just one company or government agency. But unless innovation is governed for the common good, many people remain excluded from its benefits. A new end-to-end health innovation ecosystem that prioritizes the common good is needed (32).

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC SECTOR CAPACITY FOR HEALTH FOR ALL

As COVID-19 made clear, the quality and capacity of government matters. Effective governments are not the smallest, but those that are well designed and properly resourced, both financially and in terms of their people and infrastructure. Re-investing in government capacity is crucial to delivering Health for All (33).

Related WHA resolutions



Vision

“A world in which the economy serves and benefits from health for all”

- EHFA envisions the economy as **a people-centred system**, designed to advance and benefits from the **health of all, across generations**. It calls for **aligning health and economic policies with the values of the populations they serve** and for **mobilizing public and private investment** toward building an equitable, healthy, and economically resilient future, for both current and future generations.

Guiding Principles

- People centred
- Whole of government
- Social participation
- Equity
- Gender equality
- Country-led
- Evidence-informed
- Environmental sustainability

Audience

- All those in a position to incorporate HfA in national and global economic policy: heads of state, ministers, governmental officials, **central and development bank, parliamentarians.**
- The wide array of stakeholders who can play a role in driving change by promoting and adopting EHfA: citizens, civil society organizations, **labor unions,** think-tanks and academia, international organizations, development banks, aid actors, medias, and private sector and industry representatives.

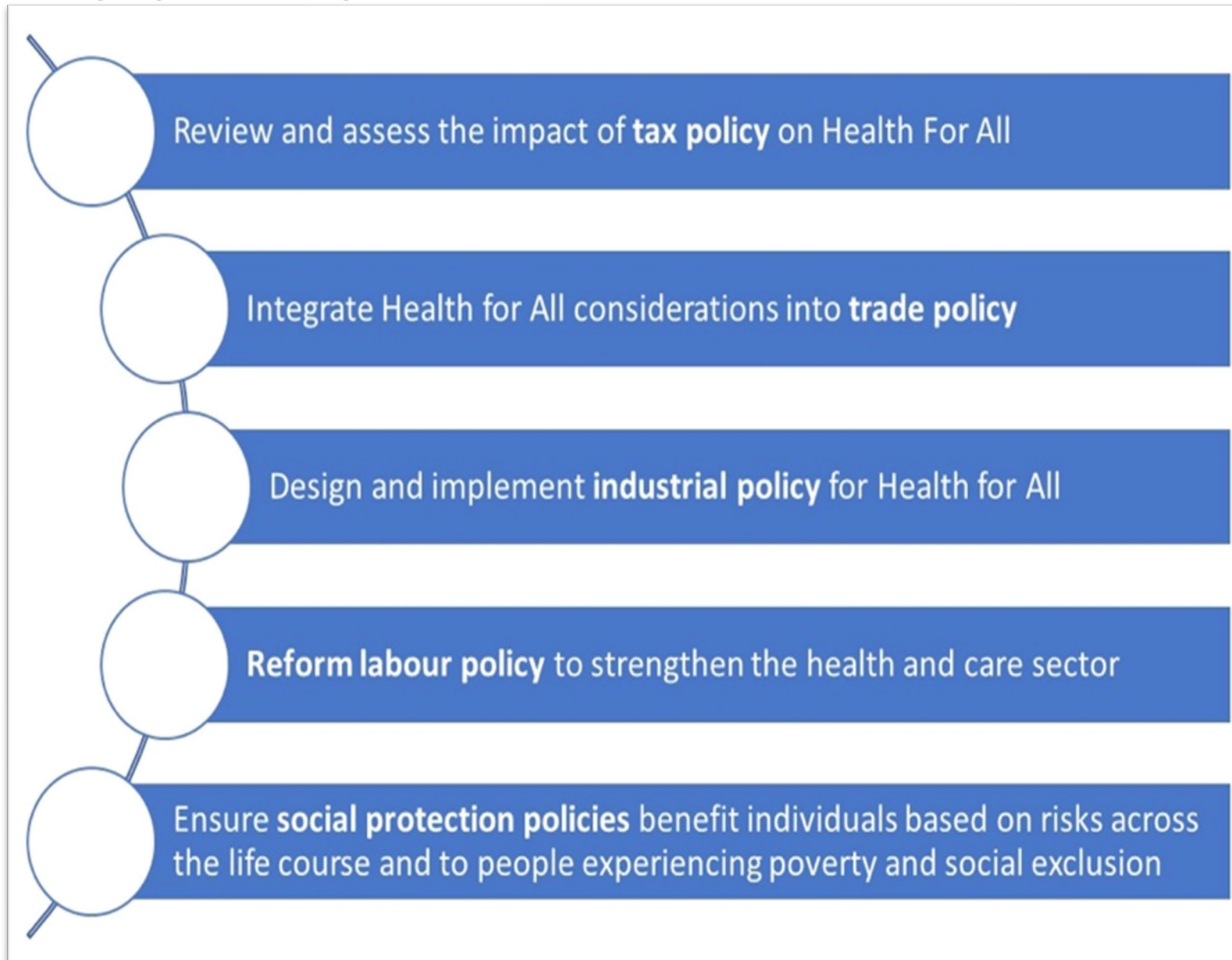
Objectives

- Orientate economic systems and institutions to the benefit of health and prosperity of populations across generations
- Improve health and reduce health inequality by ensuring economic policies and investments value health for all
- Empower countries to make informed policy choices and take concrete actions that consider both health and the economy
- Coordinate global, regional and domestic health and economic actors behind the common goal of health and wellbeing for all

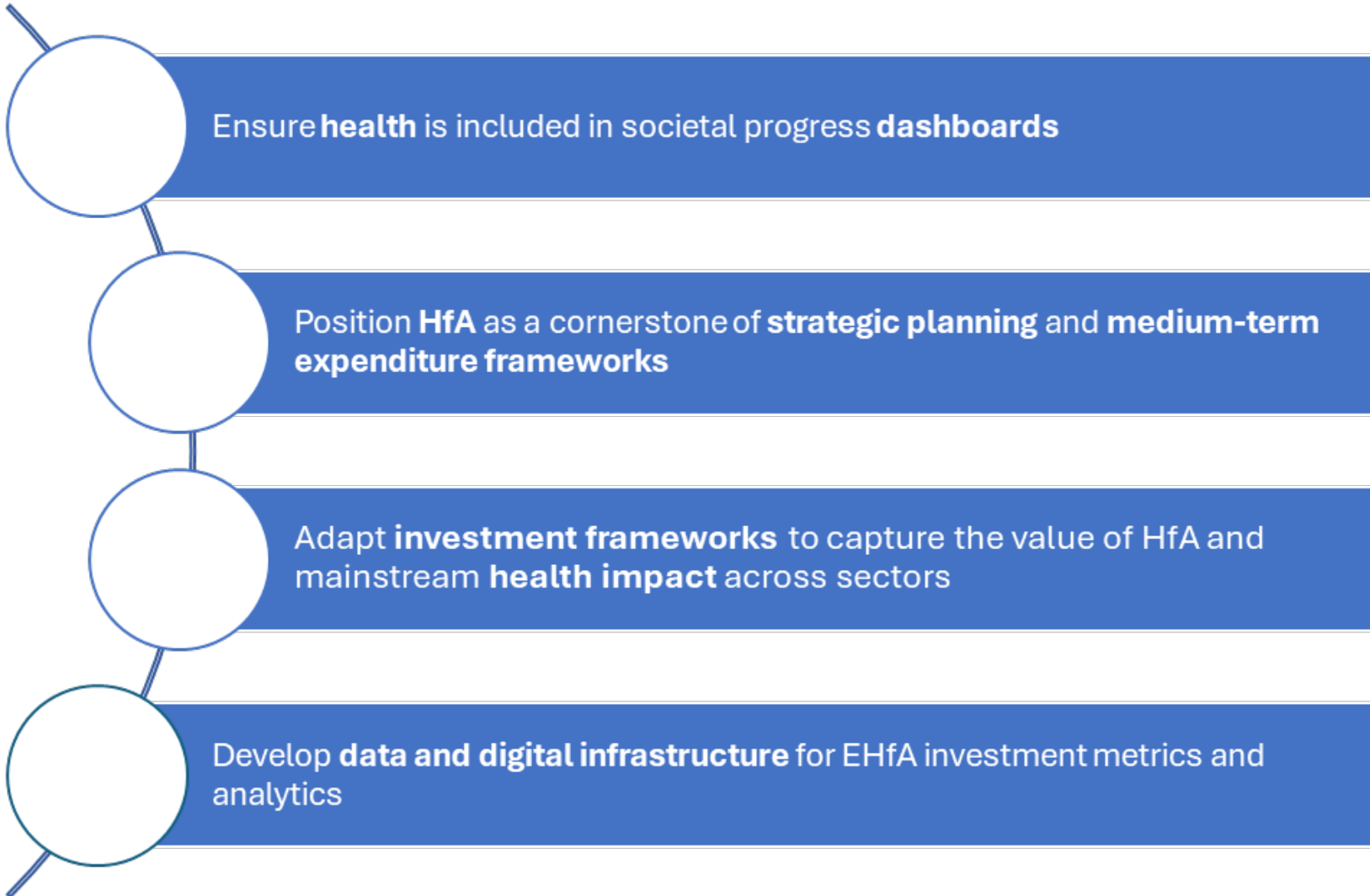
Five strategic directions



Economy policy for HfA



Value and invest in HfA



Financing for HfA



Capacity for EHfA



Evidence for EHfA



GSEHfA implementation (WHO)

- Co-ordinate across WHO to work with MS to develop actions and assess capacities to implement EHfA
- Establish a network of stakeholders working on economic policy, investment and financing
- To develop relevant normative products
- To balance shorter term deliverables with longer-term impact

Activities to initiate the GSEHfA (1)

1. Normative guidance on making **the case for investment in HfA**, including guidance to inform frameworks for classifying (private) investments that contribute to HfA
2. In partnership with other actors, initiate the development of **a maturity framework to assess country capacities on EHfA**
3. Establishing **global evidence synthesis on interdependence health and the economy** and documenting and sharing country experiences support learning networks for EHfA
4. Develop norms and standards, including on conflicts of interest, **to address the health and health equity impacts of harmful commercial practices** through the implementation of the recommendations of the Global Report on the Commercial Determinants of Health

Activities to initiate the GSEHfA (2)

5. Develop **technical tools to support countries in assessing the health impacts of economic instruments** (including debt, trade and taxation) and support countries in the inclusion of health and health equity in economic instruments and decision-making
6. Build **capacity and raise awareness on commercial practices' risks to health** in order to empower authorities, communities and individuals to support action on the commercial determinants of health
7. **Engage with the private sector and health-aligned commercial actors** to support action to address harmful commercial practices and foster action to address health equity
8. In partnership with other actors, **development of a research agenda on the financialization of the health care sector** to inform future global research and normative guidance.

The GSEHfA in its new context

WHO prioritization

- Has led to a major restructure of the WHO Secretariat
 - *Dpt of Health Economics & Finance* → *Dpt of Performance, Financing and Delivery*
 - Opportunities for synergies within the Dpt, but also a need for prioritisation
- The 8 activities listed above reflect: (i) priorities and areas where WHO normative leadership matters; (ii) feasibility of supervision by the senior technical expertise present in the department.
- Possible ways forward: partnership with universities and WHO Collaborating Centers, secondments...
- Keen on your ideas on how we can work together on this important agenda!

Next step: your inputs on this Draft 1

- The previous round was on the alignment with the Resolution, the strategic directions and the list of possible actions.
- We propose to put the focus now on clarity and coherence.

Links to questionnaire

Link to post your feedback:

[Global Consultations-Global Strategy on the Economics of Health for All \(GSEHFA\)](#)