

# **Draft terms of reference for a global coordination mechanism on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases**

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. This second WHO Discussion Paper outlines a draft terms of reference for a global coordination mechanism for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases in response to resolution WHA66.10. It builds on a first WHO Discussion Paper (version dated 23 July 2013)<sup>1</sup> and takes into account discussions at the WHO regional committees, WHO informal dialogues with relevant NGOs and selected private entities held on 14 and 15 August 2013, respectively, and written responses received as part of WHO's web-based consultation on the first WHO Discussion Paper conducted between 2 September 2013 and 30 October 2013. A report summarizing the results of the discussions in the regional committees and inputs from stakeholders is available as a separate document.<sup>2</sup>

## **DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE**

2. The terms of reference covers the following: (a) the purpose and value added; (b) overarching principles and approaches, its functions, the Partners involved and their responsibilities, periodicity of general meetings, working groups, secretariat, work plan, administrative arrangements and accountability.

### **Purpose and value added**

3. The purpose of a global coordination mechanism will be to improve coordination of activities which address functional gaps that are barriers to the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, with a view to perform collectively, in a coordinated and coherent manner, a set of actions for Member States, international partners and the private sector, and WHO comprised in the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020,<sup>3</sup> in order to attain the nine voluntary global targets for noncommunicable diseases, including that of a 25% reduction in premature mortality from

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to [http://www.who.int/nmh/events/ncd\\_coordination\\_mechanism/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/nmh/events/ncd_coordination_mechanism/en/index.html).

<sup>2</sup> Document A/NCD/GCM/1/INF./1.

<sup>3</sup> Resolution WHA66.10.

noncommunicable diseases by 2025. It will enable Partners to share strategies, align objectives and resources, and will encourage Partners to accelerate implementation of relevant activities.

### **Overarching principles and approaches**

4. The primary role and responsibility for preventing and controlling noncommunicable diseases lie with governments, while efforts and engagement of all sectors of society, international collaboration and cooperation are essential for success. Accordingly:

- A global coordination mechanism will take individual country needs as a starting point, and will contribute to strengthening national efforts to attain the nine voluntary global targets;
- A global coordination mechanism will facilitate engagement among Partners, while safeguarding WHO and public health from any form of real, perceived or potential conflicts of interest;
- A global coordination mechanism will be convened, hosted and led by WHO and report to the WHO governing bodies;
- A global coordination mechanism will engage with non-State Actors in accordance with the relevant rules currently being negotiated as part of WHO reform and to be considered, through the Executive Board, by the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly.

### **Functions of a global coordination mechanism**

5. The proposed functions of a global coordination mechanism will be as follows:

- **Advocating and raising awareness:** A global coordination mechanism will encourage Partners to raise the priority accorded to the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, in accordance with the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020, on the international development agenda, including discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.
- **Brokering knowledge and information:** A global coordination mechanism will act as an observatory for Partners, producing a global register of (i) actions carried out by Partners to address noncommunicable diseases; and (ii) financing and other resources being made available to implement a set of actions included the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020 and attain the nine global voluntary targets;
- **Encouraging innovation:** A global coordination mechanism will provide a forum for Partners to identify barriers in implementing a set of actions included in the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020 and attaining the nine voluntary global targets, and sharing innovative practices for overcoming these barriers;
- **Promoting multisectoral action:** A global coordination mechanism will encourage Partners to adopt approaches to policy development that advance multisectoral action for health to support implementation of a set of actions included in WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020 and attainment of the nine voluntary global targets, and to establish institutionalized processes to advance multisectoral action for health;

- **Promoting accountability:** A global coordination mechanism will provide a forum for relevant nongovernmental organizations and selected private sector entities to be accountable for their contribution to the implementation of a set of actions included in the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020 and the attainment of the nine voluntary global targets.

## **Partners**

6. The Partners of a global coordination mechanism will be as follows:
- Member States, and where applicable, regional economic integration organizations;<sup>1</sup>
  - United Nations funds, programmes and agencies and other international partners;<sup>1</sup>
  - Non-State actors.<sup>1</sup>

## **Responsibilities of the Partners**

7. The responsibilities of the Partners will be to:
- Commit to implementing a set of actions included in the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020;
  - Support national efforts for prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, inter alia, through exchange of information on best practices and dissemination of research findings;
  - Be guided by WHO normative guidance and technical tools to support the implementation of the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020.

## **Periodicity of general meetings**

8. A global mechanism will meet twice per year. The meetings will be co-chaired by WHO and a representative from a Member State. Efforts will be made to rotate meetings between Geneva and other WHO regions, in order to increase the visibility of noncommunicable diseases and the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020 across the world. Additional regional and ad hoc meetings may also be held, as necessary.

## **Working groups**

9. Working groups will provide a way for groups of Partners with similar interests to foster collaborative work under the umbrella of a global coordination mechanism on activities in line with the functions above.

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<sup>1</sup> For a definition, please refer to paragraph 15 of the WHO Global Action Plan 2013–2020

### **Secretariat for a global coordination mechanism**

10. WHO shall provide the Secretariat for a global coordination mechanism, which will be part of WHO's Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health Cluster and report to the WHO Director-General.

11. The main responsibilities of the Secretariat for a global coordination mechanism will be:

- To develop and forge consensus on work plans;
- To develop terms of reference for any working group;
- To convene and lead meetings of a global coordination mechanism, including, as appropriate, working groups;
- To encourage and facilitate strategic collaborative arrangements and alliances among the Partners of a global coordination mechanism in line with the functions above;
- To act as a point of enquiries and information regarding activities being undertaken by the Partners;
- To create and update an online inventory of activities of Partners;
- To establish a virtual practice community for Partners;
- To develop guidance to encourage Partners to be accountable for implementing a set of actions included in the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020;
- To provide guidance to governments in their efforts to establish national multisectoral mechanisms in accordance with activity 30(f) included in the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020.

### **Work plan**

12. A work plan will set out the activities of a global coordination mechanism, including any working groups. The work plan will be developed by the Secretariat for a global coordination mechanism, in collaboration with the Partners, and will cover a two year period, aligned with the WHO Programme Budget cycle. The final work plan will be approved by the WHO Director-General.

### **Administrative arrangements**

13. Partners will, in principle, be responsible for meeting their own expenses in relation to activities under a global coordination mechanism (including, but not limited to, travel and subsistence for attending meetings and participating in working groups).

14. The WHO Programme Budget 2014–2015 will include budgetary provisions to finance the work of the Secretariat for a global coordination mechanism.

15. Activities of the Secretariat for a global coordination mechanism will need to be financed through voluntary contributions to WHO, in accordance with standing WHO practices. Voluntary

contributions from international partners and non-State actors to WHO in support of the activities of the Secretariat for a global coordination mechanism will be subject to standing WHO practices.

### **Lifespan of a global coordinating mechanism and evaluation**

16. The lifespan of a global coordinating mechanism will be from 2013 to 2020, in line with the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020. A global coordination mechanism will evolve through the phases outlined below. A mid-term evaluation in 2017 will offer an opportunity to learn from the experience of the first phase, taking corrective measures where actions have not been effective, and to reorient a global coordination mechanism, as appropriate, in response to the post-2015 development agenda.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Phase</b>
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation phase</li> </ul>
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of a global coordination mechanism, following the approval of terms-of-reference at the 67th World Health Assembly</li> <li>• Start-up phase</li> </ul>
2015–2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational phase I</li> </ul>
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-term evaluation</li> </ul>
2018–2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational phase II</li> </ul>
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final evaluation</li> </ul>

17. The Secretariat for a global coordination mechanism will convene a representative group of Partners in order to evaluate progress of a global coordination mechanism.

### **Accountability**

18. Reports on the progress achieved in implementing a global coordination mechanism for noncommunicable diseases, will be included in reports on progress made in implementing the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020 in 2016, 2018 and 2021. The authority of WHO governing bodies over the activities under a global coordination mechanism will be guaranteed in all instances, as well as WHO Governing Bodies' independence in definition of policies.

19. For transparency and accountability purposes, international partners and non-State actors will report their work and results in implementing the activities included in the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020 to a global coordination mechanism.

### **Conflict of interest**

20. Participation in a global coordination mechanism will be determined by the WHO Secretariat in accordance with existing and future operational procedures.

### **Name for a global coordination mechanism**

21. The name of a global coordination mechanism will be established by the WHO Director-General.

## Links with the UN Interagency Taskforce on the Prevention and Control of NCDs and alignment across WHO

22. United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations will be partners in a global coordination mechanism. WHO will convene a formal meeting of Member States on 13 November 2013 to complete work on the development of terms of reference for the United Nations Interagency Task Force for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases.<sup>1</sup>

23. The areas of work of the WHO Secretariat detailed in resolution WHA66.10, the functions of a global coordination mechanism, and the objectives of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases are summarized in the table below.

Areas of work of the WHO Secretariat (resolution WHA66.10)	Functions of a global coordination mechanism for the prevention and control of NCDs	Objectives of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs
<p>Provide technical support to Member States, as required, to support the implementation of the WHO global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020.</p> <p>Provide technical support to Member States, as required, to establish or strengthen national surveillance and monitoring systems for noncommunicable diseases to support reporting under the global monitoring framework for noncommunicable diseases.</p> <p>Provide technical support to Member States, as required, to engage/cooperate with non-health government sectors and, in accordance</p>	<p><b>Advocating and raising awareness:</b> A global coordination mechanism will encourage Partners to raise the priority accorded to the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, in accordance with the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020, on the international development agenda, including discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.</p> <p><b>Brokering knowledge and information:</b> A global coordination mechanism will act as an observatory for Partners, producing a global register of (i) actions carried out by Partners to address noncommunicable diseases; and (ii) financing and other resources being made available to implement a set of actions included the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020 and attain the nine global voluntary targets.</p> <p><b>Encouraging innovation:</b> A global coordination mechanism will provide a forum for Partners to identify barriers in implementing a set of actions included in the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020 and attaining the nine voluntary global targets, and sharing innovative practices for overcoming these barriers.</p> <p><b>Promoting multisectoral action:</b> A global coordination mechanism will encourage Partners to adopt approaches to policy development that</p>	<p>Enhances and coordinates systematic multisectoral support to Member States and mitigate their impacts through joint programming.</p> <p>Facilitates systematic and timely information exchange among entities of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations, available resources.</p> <p>Strengthens advocacy in order to raise the priority accorded to the prevention and control NCDs on the international development agenda.</p> <p>Ensures that tobacco control is addressed and prioritized by the UN system.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Terms of reference for the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases, including a division of tasks and responsibilities for UN organizations and other intergovernmental organizations for discussion on 13 November 2013 are available at [http://www.who.int/nmh/events/2013/discussion\\_paper\\_oct2013.pdf](http://www.who.int/nmh/events/2013/discussion_paper_oct2013.pdf).

<b>Areas of work of the WHO Secretariat (resolution WHA66.10)</b>	<b>Functions of a global coordination mechanism for the prevention and control of NCDs</b>	<b>Objectives of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs</b>
with principles for engagement, with non-State actors, in the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases.	<p>advance multisectoral action for health to support implementation of a set of actions included in WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020 and attainment of the nine voluntary global targets, and to establish institutionalized processes to advance multisectoral action for health.</p> <p><b>Promoting accountability:</b> A global coordination mechanism will provide a forum for relevant nongovernmental organizations and selected private sector entities to be accountable for their contribution to the implementation of a set of actions included in the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020 and the attainment of the nine voluntary global targets.</p>	

24. The key activities of the (i) WHO Secretariat in implementing the areas of work outlined in resolution WHA66.10; (ii) Secretariat for a global coordination mechanism; and (iii) the Secretariat for the UN Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases, are included in the WHO's Programme Budget 2014–2015.<sup>1</sup> Key activities are set out in the table below.

<b>Key activities of the WHO Secretariat in implementing the areas of work outlined in resolution WHA66.10.</b>	<b>Key activities of the WHO Secretariat within a Global Coordination Mechanism for the Prevention and Control of NCDs</b>	<b>Key activities of the WHO Secretariat within the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs</b>
The specific products and services which the WHO Secretariat will deliver are currently under development. Work will be completed on 11 November 2013.	<p>Develop and forge consensus on work plans.</p> <p>Develop terms of reference for any working group.</p> <p>Convene and lead meetings of a global coordination mechanism, including, as appropriate, working groups.</p> <p>Encourage and facilitate strategic collaborative arrangements and alliances among the Partners of a global coordination mechanism in line with the functions above.</p>	<p>Convenes and leads meetings of the Task Force.</p> <p>Encourages and facilitates strategic collaborative arrangements and alliances among the Members of the Task Force to enhance support to national level efforts to realize the commitments in the UN Political Declaration and through implementing the Action Plan.</p>

<sup>1</sup> WHO core functions are: (i) providing leadership on matters critical to health and engaging in partnerships where joint action is needed; (ii) shaping the research agenda and stimulating the generation, translation and dissemination of valuable knowledge; (iii) setting norms and standards, and promoting and monitoring their implementation; (iv) articulating ethical and evidence-based policy options; (v) providing technical support, catalyzing change, and building sustainable institutional capacity; and (vi) monitoring the health situation and assessing health trends.

<b>Key activities of the WHO Secretariat in implementing the areas of work outlined in resolution WHA66.10.</b>	<b>Key activities of the WHO Secretariat within a Global Coordination Mechanism for the Prevention and Control of NCDs</b>	<b>Key activities of the WHO Secretariat within the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs</b>
	<p>Act as a point of enquiries and information regarding activities being undertaken by the Partners.</p> <p>Create and update an online inventory of activities of Partners.</p> <p>Establish a virtual practice community for Partners.</p> <p>Develop guidance to encourage Partners to be accountable for implementing a set of actions included in the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020.</p> <p>Provide guidance to governments in their efforts to establish national multisectoral mechanisms in accordance with activity 30(f) included in the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020.</p>	<p>Creates and manages a virtual practice community for Members of the Task Force.</p> <p>Prepares and publishes summary reports of Task Force meetings and prepares reports in achieving the objectives of the Task Force for the global coordination mechanism and WHO DG reports to the WHA.</p> <p>Acts as a point of enquiries and information regarding activities being undertaken by Members of the Task Force.</p> <p>Creates and updates an online inventory of commitments and activities of the Members of the Task Force on the prevention and control of NCDs.</p> <p>Coordinates the preparation of the report to ECOSOC through the United Nations Secretary-General and incorporates the work of the former United Nations Ad Hoc Interagency Task Force on Tobacco Control, including the work to support the accelerated implementation by parties to the WHO FCTC.</p>



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