

**Follow-up to the political declaration of the third  
high-level meeting of the General Assembly  
on the prevention and control of  
non-communicable diseases**

## ANNEX 11

### **PREPARATORY PROCESS LEADING TO THE FOURTH HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN 2025**

#### **Mandate**

1. Paragraph 50 of the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases requests “the United Nations Secretary-General in consultation with Member States, and in collaboration with the World Health Organization and relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to submit to the General Assembly, by the end of 2024, for consideration by Member States, a report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present political declaration, in preparation for a high-level meeting on a comprehensive review, in 2025, of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and the promotion of mental health and well-being”.<sup>1</sup>
2. The preparatory process leading to the fourth high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases was first set out in paragraph 44 of document A74/10 Rev.1, which was noted by Member States at the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly.
3. The purpose of this Annex is to provide an update on that preparatory process.

#### **Scope, purpose and modalities**

4. Premature deaths caused by NCDs can be prevented when countries take legislative and regulatory measures and implement policies to respond to the needs of people living with or at risk of cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases or mental health conditions, including preventive, curative, palliative and specialized care. Some 85% of all premature deaths occurs in low- and middle-income countries. A large proportion of the global population live in low- and middle-income countries where the social, economic and physical environments afford lower levels of protection from the risks of NCDs, such as tobacco use, the harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity and air pollution. In addition, during the COVID-19 pandemic, NCDs and mental health services have been the most commonly disrupted among all essential health services.
5. Many countries are still lacking the capacity to fulfil the commitment, as set out in paragraph 17 of United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/2, to provide strategic leadership for the prevention and control of NCDs by promoting greater policy coherence and coordination through whole-of-government and Health in All Policies approaches and by engaging stakeholders in appropriate, coordinated, comprehensive, integrated and bold whole-of-society action and response.
6. Engagement between governments and non-State actors for the prevention and control of NCDs has proven to be challenging in the context of non-State actor compliance with public health policies and regulations, particularly in finding common ground to optimize the complementary expertise and

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/2.

resources of the private sector<sup>1</sup> while giving due regard to managing risks, including conflicts of interest and undue influence.

7. The fourth high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in 2025 will be a time to reflect on the tragic premature death toll from NCDs of 15 million people each year since 2015 – and which is projected to reach a total of more than 150 million over the previous decade by 2025. It will also provide an opportunity to adopt a new, ambitious and achievable political declaration on NCDs based on evidence and grounded in human rights that will serve as an important framework to accelerate the global NCD response from 2025, including achieving the SDGs before 2030, and place countries on a sustainable path into the next decades.

8. The President of the United Nations General Assembly will convene the fourth high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in 2025. The scope, modalities, format, organization and date of the fourth high-level meeting will be agreed upon by Member States through a separate “modalities” resolution to be adopted at the United Nations General Assembly. The resolution will be negotiated by Member States under the auspices of two co-facilitators, to be appointed by the President of the United Nations General Assembly closer to the meeting. Similarly, the outcome document to be adopted at the fourth high-level meeting will be negotiated by Member States under the auspices of the same two co-facilitators.

### **Preparatory process leading to the fourth high-level meeting in 2025**

9. The preparatory process leading to the fourth high-level meeting includes meetings and consultations co-sponsored by WHO and relevant partners, which may serve as input into the negotiations among Member States on the “modalities” resolution and the outcome document.

10. The preparatory process may also contribute to the development of recommendations that may be included in the 2024 progress report of the United Nations Secretary-General to the United Nations General Assembly on the prevention and control of NCDs.

11. A list of meetings related to the prevention and control of NCDs will be regularly updated on the WHO website.<sup>2</sup>

- **Meetings held in 2021**

- WHO Small Island Developing States Summit for Health
- Global Diabetes Summit
- United Nations Food Systems Summit
- Nutrition for Growth Summit
- Ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

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<sup>1</sup> Document A71/14.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.who.int/teams/noncommunicable-diseases/on-the-road-to-2025>, accessed 15 March 2022.

- Second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products
  - Twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
  - Tenth Global Conference on Health Promotion
  - **Meetings scheduled for 2022**
    - International Strategic Dialogue on NCDs and SDGs
    - High-level technical meeting of national NCD Directors and Programme Managers from Small Island Developing States
  - **Meetings scheduled for 2023**
    - First WHO Ministerial Conference for Small Island Development States on the Prevention and Control of NCDs
    - Second WHO global dialogue on financing national NCDs responses
    - Second high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on universal health coverage
    - Tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
    - Third session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products
    - Third WHO global meeting of national NCD Directors and Programme Managers
    - Informal consultations with Member States on the recommendations to be included in the report of the United Nations Secretary-General regional preparatory meetings
  - **Meetings scheduled for 2024**
    - Global Conference on People Living with NCDs and Mental Health Conditions
    - Third WHO Global Ministerial Conference on the Prevention and Control of NCDs
12. Activities in the areas of air pollution, mental health conditions (including mental, neurological and substance use disorders), climate change and social determinants of health, including regional meetings and decisions, may also contribute to the development of recommendations that may be included in the 2024 progress report of the United Nations Secretary-General to the United Nations General Assembly on the prevention and control of NCDs.
13. Taking into consideration WHO's leadership and coordination role in promoting and monitoring global action against NCDs, including in relation to the work of other relevant United Nations agencies, development banks, and other regional and international organizations in addressing NCDs in a coordinated manner, the WHO Director-General will prepare the 2024 progress report, in consultation

with Member States, on behalf of the Secretary-General. The format of the report in 2024 will be similar to the format used for the four previous reports.<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

14. In 2025, Member States will consider the progress report of the United Nations Secretary-General at the United Nations General Assembly. The President of the United Nations General Assembly will appoint two co-facilitators who will preside over the negotiations among the Member States of a “modalities” resolution setting out the scope, modalities, format and organization of the fourth high-level meeting. The co-facilitators will also preside over the negotiations among the Member States on the 2025 outcome document.

15. The fourth high-level meeting will be convened under the auspices of the President of the United Nations General Assembly to consider adopting the outcome document. The high-level meeting will also provide an opportunity for Member States to deliver statements and for Member States, nongovernmental organizations and private sector entities to engage in roundtable discussions.

16. In the run-up to the fourth high-level meeting, WHO will continue to encourage and support all Member States to implement the commitments made at the three high-level meetings of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in 2011,<sup>5</sup> 2014<sup>6</sup> and 2018.<sup>7</sup> To accelerate technical support and impact at the country level all donors need to scale up much-needed financial and technical contributions for the prevention and control of NCDs through bilateral and multilateral channels, including WHO’s programme on NCDs and the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund to Catalyze Country Action for Non-communicable Diseases and Mental Health. WHO also urges relevant non-State actors and people living with NCDs to support local and global efforts to achieve the set of nine voluntary targets set by the World Health Assembly in 2013<sup>8</sup> for 2025 and SDG target 3.4 (By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being).

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<sup>1</sup> Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report by the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the global status of non-communicable diseases, with a particular focus on the development challenges faced by developing countries (A/65/362) (<https://undocs.org/en/A/65/362>, accessed 3 March 2022).

<sup>2</sup> Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. Report of the Secretary-General (A/66/83) (<https://undocs.org/en/A/66/83>, accessed 3 March 2022).

<sup>3</sup> Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (A/68/650) (<https://undocs.org/A/68/650>, accessed 3 March 2022).

<sup>4</sup> Progress on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. Report of the Secretary-General (A/72/662) (<https://undocs.org/en/A/72/662>, accessed 3 March 2022).

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/ga/ncdmeeting2011/>, accessed 3 March 2022.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.un.org/press/en/2014/ga11530.doc.htm>, accessed 3 March 2022.

<sup>7</sup> <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1648984?ln=en>, accessed 3 March 2022.

<sup>8</sup> Resolution WHA66.10 (2013).