

Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and mental health

Draft updated menu of policy options and cost-effective interventions for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases

Report by the Director-General

1. In 2022, the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly through decision WHA75(11) adopted recommendations for the prevention and management of obesity over the life course and related targets, which were accompanied by an acceleration plan that clarifies how WHO will support Member States in implementing these recommendations.
2. WHO's acceleration plan to support Member States in implementing the recommendations for the prevention and management of obesity over the life course is designed to stimulate country-level action against the obesity epidemic and accelerate impact between now and 2030 through five workstreams: identification of priority cost-effective actions; support for the implementation of country actions; communication and advocacy at global, regional and country level; promotion of sustained engagement and partnerships; and monitoring and reporting on progress towards reducing global obesity rates.
3. Since May 2022, 28 front-runner countries have been identified based on epidemiological data and strategic priorities, policy environment and their expressed interest in or need for technical support in this area. While for now the focus will be on accelerating action within these countries, WHO across its three levels will take forward the acceleration plan in an incremental fashion across all regions. The countries are: Argentina, Bahrain, Barbados, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Eswatini, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Mauritius, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Seychelles, Slovenia, South Africa, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Uruguay.
4. The roll-out of the acceleration plan has started with intercountry dialogues with the front-runner countries, led by regional offices. WHO is working to support these countries to accelerate their progress through the development of tailored country road maps with clearly identified priority interventions tracked across mid-term (2025) and long-term (2030) targets and a clear pathway towards implementation. The intercountry dialogues also established a platform to unite countries and other stakeholders in a common vision for the response to the obesity epidemic focused on prioritization of selected areas of intervention and accountable implementation. Reports on progress towards the achievement of global obesity targets, as part of reporting requirements under the acceleration plan, will

be provided to the Health Assembly through reports on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases. Experience of front-runner countries will inform action for all other Member States, and WHO stands ready to provide technical support to any other Member State that decides to accelerate action on obesity.

ACTION BY THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

5. The Health Assembly is invited to note this report.

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