

Honourable chair,

Bulgaria takes note of the DG report on Neglected tropical diseases (NTD).

Our input on the guiding questions is:

1. In order to overcome and accelerate program actions against NTD, measures must be taken to reduce its frequency, spread, morbidity, disability, and mortality. The role of the Secretariat is to support Member States in implementing the NTD roadmap. Achieving the set goals requires scientific advances, new tools, and the development and implementation of programs for NTDs prevention, control, elimination, and eradication. One of the problems identified is related to climate changes. Global warming will positively affect the development of NTDs etiological agents, their vectors, the infection of reservoir hosts, and overall morbidity.

2. The sustainability of national NTD programs can be achieved with the Secretariat support by promoting the research and knowledge needed to fill the gaps identified in the NTD roadmap and ensuring sustained progress toward the control, elimination, and eradication of diseases. Participation in research and training in the field of tropical diseases and the use of molecular epidemiology can be beneficial, thereby strengthening local research capacity and stimulating further investment. Increasing the capacity of the laboratory network and access to effective diagnostics throughout the health system will ensure timely and adequate implementation of etiological treatment, and control measures.

Thank you!

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