

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)
73RD WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY (RESUMED)
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND – VIRTUAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 9 -14, 2020

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)

Agenda Item 11.8

UNITED STATES WRITTEN STATEMENT:

- The United States is committed to advancing the goals for the control, elimination and eradication of various NTDs. We are pleased to co-sponsor and support the decision to endorse the draft roadmap on NTDs. We appreciate the opportunity to provide further guidance and respond to the Secretariat's questions posed in A73/8.
- 1. What changes to current operating models and culture will Member States need to make in order to facilitate country ownership and ensure the sustainability of national programs on NTDs?**

The 2012-2020 roadmap laid out targets and implementation approaches that joined stakeholders around the global effort to control and eliminate NTDs. For NTDs that can be controlled or eliminated through preventive chemotherapy (i.e., mass drug administration), dramatic progress has been made in reaching scale due to pharmaceutical donation programs. However, less progress has been achieved on sustainability of those national programs, such as strengthening country leadership, ensuring NTD programs are incorporated appropriately into national planning and finance processes or across various sectors and key systems (e.g. supply chains), or strengthening national systems to expand access to universal health care. This calls for supporting governments to review national systems and accomplishments, understand what might be lost were programs to falter, and establish goals for incorporating NTD programs into national systems to achieve both the public health goals and reinforce and strengthen existing systems.

- 2. What commitments should stakeholders put forward to preserve the achievements made in implementing the previous roadmap and to align their future support with the new draft roadmap?**

The new draft roadmap builds off critical advances in the scientific evidence base and progress towards the 2020 disease targets. To avoid loss of momentum and achieve select elimination targets, stakeholders should continue to invest in national NTD programs, monitoring and evaluation (including surveillance), and research development in support of the revised disease goals. Given the progress and leverage of donor support and pharmaceutical donation programs, stepping back from the disease targets would have translated into an exorbitant waste of resources and a lost

opportunity to impact development in advancing health, development and economic goals. Additionally, the new roadmap calls for sustainable NTD programs through greater country ownership and incorporation of NTD programs into national systems. Stakeholders should refine support to reinforce country leadership and improve systems to incorporate NTD programs across various sectors. WHO will be issuing an accompanying Sustainability Framework for NTDs laying out a global strategy.

3. What contributions will the draft roadmap for 2021–2030 make towards demonstrable improvements in global public health?

The 2012-2020 roadmap was critical in coalescing the global community around clear targets and interventions. The draft 2021-2030 roadmap builds off the significant progress made under the previous roadmap towards the disease specific targets. The new roadmap 1) updates targets focused on public health impact for 20 diseases, 2) updates implementation approaches for 20 diseases and 3) outlines critical research and implementation gaps to achieving the 2030 disease targets, focusing on sustainability in all areas of the document.

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