Seventeenth Meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

6-8 December 2021
Seventeenth meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, 6-8 December 2021

ISBN 978-92-4-004458-6 (electronic version)
ISBN 978-92-4-004459-3 (print version)

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This publication contains the collective views of the Seventeenth meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and does not necessarily represent the decisions or policies of WHO.
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A. OBJECTIVES AND PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

1. The Seventeenth Meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases was held by videoconference on 6-8 December 2021. Twenty-four Task Force members participated.\(^1\) The World Health Organization and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) co-chaired the meeting. The agenda is Annex 1 (which provides links to the background papers),\(^2\) and the list of participants is Annex 2.

2. The main objectives of the meeting were (i) to review progress since the Sixteenth Task Force Meeting (16-18 March 2021); (ii) to update on a range of joint programmes and other workstreams, to identify opportunities for further interagency collaboration; (iii) to review progress with regard to the Task Force Strategy 2019-2021 and to discuss its successor; (iv) to discuss opportunities to build the case at country level for Global Fund applications to include NCDs; and (v) to discuss opportunities to scale up support to UN Country Teams.

B. REVIEW OF THE SUMMARY OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING, UPDATE ON GLOBAL EVENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS, AND UPDATES FROM MEMBERS

3. Members reviewed the summary of the Sixteenth Task Force Meeting and noted that progress has been made across the majority of agreed actions.

4. The Task Force received an update from WHO on global events and assignments since the Sixteenth Meeting.

5. IAEA, UNAIDS, UNDP, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF and the World Bank updated members on their current work in the area of NCDs and mental health.

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**Actions**

**B1.** Agencies that have yet to provide responses to Actions K2 and K3 to do so as soon as possible in order for Task Force Secretariat to collate results and recommend next steps: (i) Task Force focal points to ensure that discussions and decisions from Task Force meeting are reported back to their senior management in order to build even greater support for the work of the Task Force (1-2 sentence comment requested); (ii) Task Force Secretariat to support Members include NCDs and mental health in governing body and senior management discussions as and when appropriate (1-2 sentence observation requested).

**B2.** Continue to work with the UN Development Coordination Office and directly with countries to identify opportunities (and build capacity) to include NCDs and mental health into country level UN planning guidance. (Task Force Secretariat and UNDP)

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\(^2\) Available to Task Force members.
C. TOBACCO CONTROL

6. The Convention Secretariat and WHO provided an update on progress of tobacco control-related activities, including the Alternative Livelihood for Tobacco Farmers initiative and the Access Initiative for Quitting Tobacco (AIQT). Task Force members reviewed progress on the Model policy for agencies of the United Nations system on preventing tobacco industry interference and discussed next steps.

7. The Convention Secretariat updated Task Force members on decisions agreed at the Ninth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) and the Second Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP 2) to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, recognizing that actions to achieve SDG Targets 3.a and 3.4 are integral components of national recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

8. WHO provided an update on workstreams related to tobacco free schools and tobacco and child development, and World No Tobacco Day 2022 which will have as its theme the environmental impact of tobacco.

Actions

COP9 and MOP2
C1. Call on the members of the Task Force to support Parties in implementation of the COP9 Declaration on WHO FCTC and recovery from COVID-19 pandemic and include actions to achieve Target 3.a on SDGs on implementation of WHO FCTC and SDG Target 3.4 on NCDs as an integral component of national recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, including in national SDG plans. (Convention Secretariat, WHO, UNDP, World Bank and all relevant members)

C2. Establish a workstream under the Tobacco TWG on Implementation of the Protocol: (i) invite interested members to join the workstream (including but not limited to WCO, UNODC, WTO, OECD, World Bank, WHO); and (ii) map out expertise of members and agree collaborative action. (Tobacco TWG)

C3. Task Force members that are not observers to MOP and COP to start the process of applying for observer status and all observers to attend COP10 and MOP3 (13-25 November 2023, Panama). (All Task Force Members)

Model policy
C4. Ensure that tobacco industry interference in the UN system remains on the agenda of the Task Force, including regular dialogue with the UN Global Compact Executive Management Team. (Convention Secretariat, Task Force Secretariat, WHO)

Smoke-free campuses
C5. Follow up on the WHO Director-General’s letter to Heads of UN agencies on smoke-free campuses: Task Force Secretariat to support WHO Senior Leadership with follow up letters to senior level administrators to encourage them to make their campuses smoke-free and follow up with

\[1 \text{ https://www.who.int/ncds/un-task-force/events/model-policy-agencies-united-nations1.pdf}\]
D. UPDATE ON THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS

9. Updates were received from UN Nutrition on behalf of the TWG Nutrition and NCDs and from the TWG NCDs and the environment.

10. UN Nutrition reported progress on the work of the TWG and of the Community of Practice on Nutrition, Human Rights and Law, and provided an update on the Food Systems Summit and the Nutrition for Growth Summit. NCDs have been increasingly mainstreamed into UN Nutrition work in the effort to end all forms of malnutrition: Fiji Multi-country Office is being supported to strengthen nutrition as one key programmatic area in the development of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, and modeling of nutrition-related interventions is ongoing to develop the methodology for nutrition standalone investment cases.

11. The NCDs and the environment TWG/Health and Environment Climate Change Coalition NCD group provided an update on the outcomes of the COP 26. Opportunities for greater work around NCDs and climate change in Small Island Developing States were highlighted.

**Actions**

**Nutrition**

D1. Continue with country work: (i) development of the nutrition investment case; (ii) support Fiji MCO to integrate nutrition as One UN in UNSDCF and collate lessons learned for use in other countries; (iii) identify 2-3 countries which have made commitments to address the double burden with a rights-based approach; and (iv) develop case studies to showcase the rights-based approach to sustainable healthy diets and nutrition. (UN Nutrition and the Nutrition TWG)

D2. Present the work of the Nutrition, Human Rights and Law Community of Practice at the Eighteenth Meeting of the Task Force along with key messages that can be used by all Task Force members. (UN Nutrition and the Nutrition TWG)


D4. Start defining key messages for COP 27 in Egypt in November 2022. (UN Nutrition/Nutrition TWG and HECCC/Environmental TWG)
E. UPDATE ON JOINT PROGRAMMES, INITIATIVES AND COLLABORATIONS

12. Updates were received from the following joint programmes, initiatives and collaborations that Task Force members are working on: (i) NCD 2030; (ii) SAFER; (iii) cervical cancer; (iv) Global RECAP; and (v) Be He@lthy Be Mobile. Progress on these and other joint programmes and initiatives had been included in the 2021 report to ECOSOC. It was agreed that an update on FCTC2030 would be presented at the Eighteenth Task Force Meeting.

**Actions**

**NCD 2030**

E1. WHO and UNDP to prepare for the next phase for NCD 2030. Other Task Force Members that wish to join forces provide expressions of interest to WHO and UNDP, with a commitment to identify resources to support future activities.

**SAFER**

E2. SAFER Secretariat to provide a briefing to interested Task Force members to discuss potential entry points for a small number of Task Force members to support action required to take forward recommendations coming out of SAFER country missions.

E3. All joint programmes, initiatives and collaborations to report back at the Eighteenth Meeting of the Task Force.

F. NEW TASK FORCE STRATEGY


14. Task Force Members welcome the draft, agreeing that the priorities of the 2019-2021 strategy were still relevant and should be maintained. Participants agreed that the new strategy should again be for 3 years (2022-2024), with flexibility to be updated, if and when required, in order to reflect new or emerging global policies and/or resolutions.

**Actions**

F1. Task Force Secretariat to update the draft strategy taking into account comments received during the meeting.

F2. Updated draft to be circulated for final inputs from Task Force members. Comments to be received by Task Force Secretariat by 31 December 2021, to allow a final version to be circulated for final approval in order for electronic publication at the end of January 2022.

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G. NCD AND MENTAL HEALTH MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND

15. The MPTF Secretariat provided an overview of the NCD and Mental Health MPTF since the last meeting, including: (i) Kenya, Thailand and Uruguay joining as Founding Strategic Partners; (ii) a Circular Letter issued by WHO to all Member States indicating that the MPTF had been established; (iii) outcomes of the First Steering Committee meeting held in November; (iv) ongoing engagement with DAC and other donors; and (v) ongoing development of operational guidance and a resource mobilization strategy.

Actions

G1. Further update to be provided at the Eighteenth Meeting of the Task Force. (MPTF Secretariat, WHO, UNDP and UNICEF)

H. UN COUNTRY TEAM LANDSCAPE

16. The session provided Members with the opportunity to understand better the current environment that UN Resident Coordinators and UN country teams are operating in, especially during the pandemic – and the role of NCDs and mental health in their strategic thinking, including ways to integrate health/NCD objectives in synergy with other potentially competing themes. Resident Coordinators from India and Zimbabwe shared recent experiences as well as challenges and opportunities for interagency action on NCDs and mental health at country level, including developing, resourcing and implementing UN development cooperation frameworks.

Actions

H1. Task Force to work with interested UN Resident Coordinators, their offices and UNCTs to have an initial discussion with selected UNRCs on briefings and communication on the NCD-related SDGs that they, their offices and UNRCs would find helpful, building on existing Task Force material. (Task Force Secretariats with the support of Task Force Members)

I. ADVOCATING AT COUNTRY LEVEL FOR GLOBAL FUND APPLICATIONS TO INCLUDE NCDs

19. The Global Fund, UNDP and the Task Force Secretariat updated members on ongoing work to build the case for advocating for Global Fund applications to include NCDs and mental health at the country level following the decision of the last Task Force meeting. The briefing emphasized that this was not about advocating for an expansion in the mandate of the Global Fund, rather ensuring that countries were aware of the Global Fund’s policy on co-infections and co-morbidities.5

20. Members highlighted the importance of addressing co-morbidities, by advocating for integrative approaches at the country level, and by leveraging the Global Fund’s commitment to resilient and sustainable systems for health and strengthening primary healthcare. Members emphasized the need to model joint economic benefits of interventions addressing co-morbidities, in

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order to build further the case for countries utilizing the co-infections and co-morbidities policy. In addition, the need to create demand from community and civil society partner was stressed.

**Actions**

I1. Continue to develop a set of activities to advocate and build the case at country level for Global Fund applications to include NCDs and mental health. (UN NCD Task Force Global Fund NCD and Mental Health Task Team: Global Fund, WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, FCTC Secretariat, and Task Force Secretariat)

**J. 2022 PLANNING: REPORT TO ECOSOC AND TASK FORCE AWARDS**

21. The Task Force Secretariat provided the timetable for submitting the Task Force’s annual report to ECOSOC in 2022. A consolidated draft will be shared with Members for inputs during March 2022, ahead of submission to UN DESA.

22. Members welcomed the 2021 Awards process and members agreed that there should be a further call for the Awards in 2022. The call should once again encourage nominations that highlight action taken by youth groups. Task Force members are encouraged to join the selection committee.

**Actions**

J1. 2022 Task Force Awards to be taken forward in line with the approach used for 2021, including encouraging nominations from groups working with youth groups. Members to inform the Secretariat of other areas that they would wish to see emphasized in the call for nominations. (Task Force Secretariat, All)

**K. DATES AND VENUES FOR FUTURE TASK FORCE MEETINGS**

23. It was agreed that the 18th meeting would be held in Spring 2022.

**Actions**

K1. Eighteenth Meeting of the Task Force to be held mid-end-March. Members to inform the Task Force Secretariat of competing events in order to identify suitable dates for the meeting. (All)
## Annex 1. Agenda

### Co-Moderators

*Werner Obermeyer, Director, WHO Office at the United Nations, New York*

*Petra ten Hoope-Bender, Technical Advisor, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, UNFPA Office of Geneva*

### DAY 1: Monday 6 December 2021

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<th>Background papers</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Agenda item 1</strong> 14:30 – 14:50</td>
<td>Welcome and introductions</td>
<td>Werner Obermeyer (WHO) Petra ten Hoope-Bender (UNFPA) Svetlana Akselrod (WHO)</td>
<td>01.1 List of participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agenda item 2</strong> 14:50 – 15:20</td>
<td>Review of actions agreed at the 16th meeting</td>
<td>Task Force Secretariat</td>
<td>02.1 Review of actions from 16th Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agenda item 3</strong> 15:20 – 16:00</td>
<td>Update on global events and assignments</td>
<td>Guy Fones (WHO)</td>
<td>03.1 Presentation on global events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agenda item 4</strong> 16:00 – 18:00</td>
<td>Updates on thematic working groups</td>
<td>1. Vinayak Prasad (WHO) and Guangyuan Liu (Convention Secretariat) 2. Stineke Oenema (UN Nutrition) 3. Alexandra Egorova (WHO)</td>
<td>04.1 COP9 Declaration on the COVID-19 pandemic 04.2 MOP2 Decision on Financial Resources and Mechanism of Assistance 04.3 MOP2 Decision on Assistance and Cooperation 04.4 MOP2 Decision on Tracking and Tracing Systems 04.5 Presentation COP 9 and MOP 2 04.6 Presentation AIQT 04.7 Presentation UN Nutrition 04.8 COP 26 presentation 04.9 Example letter for smoke-free UN</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Agenda item 5</strong> 14:30 – 15:00</td>
<td>New Task Force strategy</td>
<td>Task Force Secretariat</td>
<td>05.1 Draft strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agenda item 6</strong> 15:00 – 16:00</td>
<td>NCD and Mental Health Multi-Partner Trust Fund</td>
<td>Mamka Anyona and Linda Merieau (MPTF Secretariat, WHO) and WHO, UNDP and UNICEF Core Team</td>
<td>06.1 Memorandum of Understanding 06.2 Terms of Reference 06.3 Brochure 06.4 Presentation MPTF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agenda item 7</strong> 16:00 – 17:00</td>
<td>Updates on joint programmes, initiatives and collaborations across the UN system</td>
<td>1. Alexey Kulikov (Task Force Secretariat), Daniel Grafton (UNDP) 2. Sarah Roache (WHO) 3. Ani Shakarishvili (UNAIDS) 4. Maria Chiara Campisi (IDLO), Ben McGrady (WHO) 5. Simona Pestina (ITU)</td>
<td>07.1 Presentation NCD 2030 07.2 Presentation SAFER 07.3 Presentation cervical cancer 07.4 Presentation RECAP 07.5 Presentation BHBM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agenda item 8</strong> 17:00 – 18:00</td>
<td>Updates from Members</td>
<td></td>
<td>08.1 MoU between WHO and UN-HABITAT</td>
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### DAY 3: Wednesday 8 December 2021

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<th>Background papers</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Agenda item 9</strong>&lt;br&gt;14:30 – 15:30</td>
<td>UN country team landscape</td>
<td>Shombi Sharp, Resident Coordinator, India&lt;br&gt;Alex Gasasira, Resident Coordinator, Zimbabwe&lt;br&gt;Session facilitated by Dudley Tarlton (UNDP)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Agenda item 10</strong>&lt;br&gt;15:30 – 16:15</td>
<td>Advocating and building the case at country level for Global Fund applications to include NCDs</td>
<td>Emily Roberts and Johanna Jung (UNDP), Michael Borowitz (Global Fund), Giuseppe Troisi (Task Force Secretariat)</td>
<td>10.1 Presentation on GFATM advocacy paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agenda item 11</strong>&lt;br&gt;16:15 – 16:30</td>
<td>2022 planning: report to ECOSOC and Task Force Awards</td>
<td>Task Force Secretariat</td>
<td>11.1 Presentation 2022 planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agenda item 12</strong>&lt;br&gt;16:30 – 16:45</td>
<td>Dates and venues for future Task Force meetings</td>
<td>Task Force Secretariat</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Agenda item 13</strong>&lt;br&gt;16:45 – 17:45</td>
<td>Review of action points</td>
<td>Task Force Secretariat</td>
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Annex 2. List of Participants

SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE UN TASK FORCE ON THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NCDs
6, 7 AND 8 DECEMBER 2021
VIRTUAL MEETING

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
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Public health consultant, Security and Social Protection division

GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA
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Marion Devaux
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Chief Waste Management & Sanitation  
Urban Basic Services Branch

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Human Rights Officer, Human Rights, Economic and Social Issues,  
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Global NCD Platform

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MSD

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