

UNGA Side Event sponsored by WHO and Denmark:
Ensuring a better future for all: Reaching the SDG target on NCDs by elevating
partnerships, gender and technical assistance

18 September 2017 at 11:30 am to 1 pm
Conference Room 11, United Nations Conference Building, New York

Context

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has transformed the political debate on non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Never before has reduction of premature mortality from NCDs through prevention and treatment been placed at the centre of a global agenda that will transform our world. There is a sense of urgency in moving forward, as the current rate of decline in premature mortality from NCDs (i.e. 17% between 2000 and 2015) is insufficient to meet the SDG target 3.4 on NCDs.

The next two years will make it clear how much heads of state and government recognize that NCDs are essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is still to be seen if they will include NCDs in the ambitious national SDG strategies and implementation plans that are currently being developed? If they do the implementation of a set of best buys and other recommended solutions for the prevention and control of NCDs requires influencing policies in sectors beyond health, as well as engaging with the private sector, NGOs, philanthropic foundations and academic institutions. If not, their people will be left behind.

This raises the bar for Heads of State and Government who recognized their primary role to lead the national NCD responses at the UN General Assembly in 2011. This also redefines the role of Ministers of Health profoundly. Moreover, it requires action to unlock the transformative potential of the private sector in contributing to national NCD goals. Equally important, it also requires more responsive and coherent WHO Country Offices and UN Country Teams in closing technical assistance gaps to support governments in taking the NCD agenda forward.

Women in low- and lower-middle income countries are particularly at risk from NCDs, where 3 million women between the ages of 30-70 died prematurely from NCDs in 2015. Most of these deaths can easily be prevented by integrating best buys for NCDs and other recommended interventions into existing sexual and reproductive health as well as maternal and child health programs, especially at the primary health-care level. New partnerships and commitments are needed to bridge efforts in health and development communities to address the gender dimensions of NCDs. A broad set of stakeholders need to come together to advocate, prevent and treat the NCDs and address risk factors for women and children - for the benefit of all of society.

Rationale

It is on this background that WHO and Denmark are organizing a side event to raise awareness about NCDs:

- Where do we stand in addressing NCDs? Have we made progress since 2011?
- What are the gender dimensions of NCD mortality and morbidity?
- How can the added value of the private sector partnerships be unlocked?

The start of the General Debate of the 72nd Regular Session of the UN General Assembly and the upcoming WHO Global Conference on Noncommunicable diseases (Montevideo, 18-20 October 2017) mark important milestones for stepping up global efforts in the lead up to the third High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on NCDs in 2018.

Objective

Offer perspectives on where the world stands today in delivering on the commitment of world leaders to reduce by one-third premature mortality from NCDs by 2030 (SDG target 3.4). Highlight the opportunity for world leaders to make bold political choices and implement the best buys for NCDs, and recognize the positive contribution of financial and technical assistance to accelerate action. Emphasize the importance of gender and multistakeholder partnerships in reaching the NCD target.

Format of event

1.5 hour, i.e.

- 30 minutes of quick tour-de-table of 5-minute interventions from speakers
- 20 minutes of responses and moderated discussion with four respondents
- 40 minutes of an interactive discussion with the floor, speakers and respondents

Moderator:

- Soon-Young Yoon, United Nations representative of the International Alliance of Women

Speakers: (5 minutes each = 30 minutes)

- 1) **What are the lessons learned in Uruguay?**
Success story from Uruguay and update on the WHO Global Conference on NCDs (Montevideo, 18-20 October 2017)
Tabaré Vázquez, President of Uruguay
- 2) **How will WHO respond to the rapidly increasing demand for technical assistance to develop national NCD responses?**
Launch of DG's vision on how WHO will support countries in accelerating action to address NCDs
Dr Tedros, Director-General, WHO
- 3) **What are the gender dimensions related to NCDs and how do we mobilize multistakeholder partnerships to reach SDG 3.4 on NCDs?**
Ulla Tørnæs, Minister for Development Cooperation, Denmark
- 4) **How will UNWOMEN work with WHO to pursue and promote gender-based approaches for the prevention and control of NCDs?**
Launch of the inclusion of NCDs in to UNWOMEN's He-For-She campaign
Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director, UNWOMEN
- 5) **How will UNDP work with WHO to mobilize sectors beyond health for better NCD outcomes?**
Launch of the UNDP/WHO global joint programme on NCDs
Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator
- 6) **Are we making progress in addressing NCDs?**
Launch the results of the WHO Global NCD Progress Monitor 2017 as input into the report for the third UN High-level Meeting on NCDs in 2018
Etienne Krug, Director, Department for Management of NCDs, Disability, Violence and Injury Prevention

Respondents:

In addition to the countries and UN organizations, other kinds of stakeholders are essential to the fulfilment of the SDGs on NCDs and gender. Respondents from these stakeholders will give their perspectives on what is needed to move forward and reach the SDG target 3.4.

Question for respondents: Will what you have heard get the NCD agenda on track? What is needed for additional stakeholders to contribute more to reaching the NCD target?

- HRH Princess Dina Mired of Jordan, President-elect of the Union of International Cancer Control (UICC)
- Jonathan Klein, NCD Child
- Ishu Kataria, Young Professionals Chronic Disease Network
- Soraya Ramoul, Director, Changing Diabetes, Novo Nordisk

Interactive discussion with the floor

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