



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

10 June 2011

Excellency,

On 24 December 2010, the General Assembly adopted resolution 65/238 entitled “Scope, modalities, format and organization of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases”, in which it decided that the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases shall be held on 19 and 20 September 2011 in New York.

In this resolution, the General Assembly also requested “the President of the General Assembly to organize, no later than June 2011 and in consultation with representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia, an informal interactive hearing with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia to provide an input to the preparatory process for the High-level Meeting”. In my letter of 11 March 2011, I announced that this informal interactive civil society hearing will take place on 16 June 2011.

I have the honour to transmit herewith an information note and provisional programme for the informal interactive civil society hearing that has been finalized following consultations with civil society and through the support of a Civil Society Task Force I established, and the World Health Organization.

I would encourage all Member States to participate actively in the hearing at the Ambassadorial level. I very much look forward to an open dialogue and interaction between Member States and non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia on the progress and challenges to the NCD response, which will provide an important contribution to the upcoming High-level Meeting.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deiss'.

Joseph Deiss

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

**Proposed arrangements for the informal interactive civil society hearing of the
General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases
(16 June 2011, New York)**

Information Note

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 64/265 of 13 May 2010, decided to convene a High-level Meeting of the General Assembly in September 2011, with the participation of Heads of State and Government, on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. In its resolution 65/238, the General Assembly further decided that this High-level Meeting shall be held on 19 and 20 September 2011 in New York.

2. By paragraph 10 of resolution 65/238, the General Assembly requested the President of the General Assembly to organize, no later than June 2011 and in consultation with representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia, an informal interactive hearing with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia to provide an input to the preparatory process for the High-level Meeting.

3. By paragraph 11 of resolution 65/238, the General Assembly decided that the President of the General Assembly shall preside over the above-mentioned informal interactive hearing, and requested the President to prepare a summary of the hearing, to be issued as a document of the Assembly prior to the High-level Meeting.

4. The President of the General Assembly established a Civil Society Task Force to assist him in organising the informal interactive civil society hearing.

II. Information for participation

A. Date and venue

5. The informal interactive civil society hearing (thereafter “the hearing”) will be held on Thursday, 16 June 2011 in the General Assembly Hall at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

B. Participation in the hearing

Participation and seating

6. The hearing will be open to representatives of Member States, the Observer State and observers, as well as non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and invited non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia. The list of invited participants was

determined by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia, through the Civil Society Task Force. Every attempt was made to ensure the list of invited participants was balanced in terms of geographic representation, gender and the different constituencies involved in the NCDs response.

7. To allow for an informal interactive exchange, all Member States, and some representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC and invited non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia will have assigned seats on the floor of the General Assembly Hall. A proportion of the General Assembly Hall will be assigned to representatives of Member States, who will be provided with name plates on arrival. This arrangement applies specifically to this informal interactive hearing and will in no way create a precedent for other meetings.

8. Remaining representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC and invited non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia will be seated on the floor of the General Assembly Hall in the part of the Hall assigned to representatives of civil society, space permitting, and in the 3rd floor Gallery and 4th floor Balcony.

Programme and speakers

9. The hearing will consist of opening and closing sessions, and three sequential informal interactive roundtables. The President of the General Assembly will chair the opening and closing sessions. Opening remarks will be delivered by the President of the General Assembly, the Deputy Secretary-General, the Assistant Director-General of WHO, and an eminent person. Closing remarks will be delivered by the President of the General Assembly and an eminent person (see Annex 1a).

10. The themes for the three roundtables will be:

- **Roundtable one - *The scale of the challenge***
- **Roundtable two - *National and local solutions***
- **Roundtable three – *What is needed to enhance global cooperation?***

11. Each of the three roundtables will be comprised of an eminent person, panellists representing non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia, and a representative from a Member State. Each roundtable will be overseen by a moderator. After brief presentations by these participants, additional pre-selected civil society representatives will be asked to make interventions from the floor (see Annex 1b). This will be followed by an interactive discussion with the floor. A background brief with further information on each panel has been posted on the website of WHO at http://www.who.int/nmh/events/2011/informal_hearing/en/index.html.

12. Participants who wish to make an intervention from the floor will need to sign up to a Speakers List with the Secretariat at the front of the Hall, during the relevant roundtable.

C. Outcome of the hearing

13. In accordance with paragraphs 10 and 11 of resolution 65/238, the hearing will form part of the preparatory process for the High-level Meeting, and the President of the General Assembly will prepare a summary of the hearing to be issued as a General Assembly document prior to the High-level Meeting.

D. Media arrangements

14. The hearing, including the informal interactive roundtables, will be open to the media and will be broadcast via live webcast. Media advisories will be distributed on-site and through United Nations Information Centres/services, and will be made available electronically on WHO's website for the hearing, at http://www.who.int/nmh/events/un_ncd_summit2011/en/

E. List of invited representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector

15. The list of participants will be posted on http://www.who.int/nmh/events/un_ncd_summit2011/en/

Informal interactive hearing with civil society for the High-level Meeting on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases

Draft Agenda

Thursday, 16 June 2011, General Assembly Hall

- 10.00 - 10.45* **Opening Session** Chaired by **H.E. Mr Joseph Deiss**, President of the General Assembly
- Opening remarks by **H.E. Mr Joseph Deiss**, President of the General Assembly; **Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro**, Deputy Secretary-General; **Dr. Ala Alwan**, Assistant Director-General, WHO; and **HRH Princess Dina Mired** (Jordan), Director-General, King Hussein Cancer Foundation
- 10.45 – 12:00* **Roundtable one:** The scale of the challenge
- 12:00 - 13.00* **Roundtable two:** National and local solutions
- 13.00 - 15.00* Lunch Break
- 15.00 - 16.30* **Roundtable two** continues
- 16:30 - 17:30* **Roundtable three:** What is needed to enhance global cooperation?
- 17.30 - 18.00* **Closing Session** Chaired by the President of the General Assembly
- Closing remarks **Sir George Alleyne** (Barbados), Director Emeritus, Pan American Health Organization

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**Panellists and Speakers
(Draft)**

Moderator: TBC

Roundtable One: **The scale of the challenge**

Panellists

Eminent person: **Dr. Betsy Nabel** (USA), President, Brigham and Women's Hospital

Civil society: **Associate Professor Ruth Colagiuri** (Australia), International Diabetes Federation

Professor David Bloom (USA), Harvard School of Public Health

Dr. Mira Shiva (India), Health Action International and Initiative for Health & Equity in Society

Member State: **H.E. Mr. Carsten Staur** (Denmark), Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations

Speakers from the floor

Civil society: **Dr. Trevor Hassel** (Barbados), Healthy Caribbean Coalition
Mr. George Hacker (USA), Global Alcohol Policy Alliance
Dr. Shiriki Kumanyika (USA), International Association for the Study of Obesity
Ms. Paula Johns (Brazil), Alliance for Control of Tobacco
Dr. John Seffrin (USA), American Cancer Society (TBC)
Dr Nils Billo (France), International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease
Dr. Jean-Luc Eiselé (Switzerland), World Health Professionals Alliance

Roundtable Two: National and local solutions

Panellists

Eminent Person: **Dr. Tom Frieden** (USA), US Center for Diseases Control and Prevention

Civil Society: **Ms Shoba John** (India), Framework Convention Alliance
Dr. Louise Kantrow (USA), International Chamber of Commerce
Professor Bongani Mayosi (South Africa), African Heart Network

Member State: **TBC**

Speakers from the floor

Civil Society: **Dr. Sidney Smith** (USA), World Heart Federation
Ms. Patricia Lambert (South Africa), Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids
Dr. Peter Lamptey, (Ghana) Family Health International
Ms. Kate Armstrong (Australia), Caring and Living as Neighbours
Mr. Cary Adams (Switzerland), Union for International Cancer Control
Mr. Emer Rojas (Philippines), Global Cancer Ambassador
Dr. Kaushik Ramaiya (Kenya), International Diabetes Federation (TBC)
Dr. Richard Roberts (USA), World Primary Care Alliance

Roundtable Three: What is needed to enhance global cooperation?

Panellists

Eminent Person: **Dr. Sania Nishtar** (Pakistan), Heartfile

Civil Society: **Dr. Tazeen Jafar** (Pakistan), Aga Khan University, Karachi
Dr. Scott Ratzan (USA), International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations NCD Taskforce
Dr. Rachel Nugent (USA), Center for Global Development

Member State: **TBC**

Speakers from the floor

Civil Society: **Mrs. Janet Vou te** (Switzerland), International Food and Beverage Alliance
Mr. Francis Thompson (Canada), Framework Convention Alliance
Mrs. Ann Keeling (Belgium), NCD Alliance
Mr. Robbert de Kock (Switzerland), World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry
Mrs. Bola Ojo (South Africa), African Heart Network