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MDG's Achievement, New Challenges and Opportunities in Regional Cooperation in health

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Issues for consideration

- **Countries in the region are facing a double burden of both communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs)**
- **Tackling NCDs are now an additional public health challenge**
- **Sustainable, universal and efficient primary health care systems are essential for closing the gaps and attainment of health MDGs needs**
- **National health policies/solutions need to be reinforced/supplemented with regional cooperation to accelerate progress**

Deliberate, coherent and innovative regional cooperation central to health MDGs and delivery of high quality health care at affordable costs

Three key dimensions of regional cooperation need to be stressed to assure high quality health care at affordable costs nationally

- **Public health research and development**
- **Production and distribution of medicines and diagnostic equipment**
- **Harmonized trade and investment policies sensitive to public health needs**

- National capacities on research and development needs to be strengthened through pooling of technical, human and financial resources
- Recent UN General Assembly declarations on HIV and NCDs have encouraged alliances and networks for development new medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and technologies
- Good practices such as the Public health research and development such as the African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics Innovation (ANDI) exist which need to be replicated

- Need to retain and expand national drug and diagnostic equipment manufacturing capabilities to meet with the public health needs such as in Pakistan, Bangladesh and India
- While the cost of treatment of HIV/AIDs has dropped considerably, other essential drugs continue to be prohibitive
- Drugs for treatment of diseases such as hepatitis C, breast cancer, diabetes is prohibitive
- Generic alternatives to these drugs would dramatically improve health outcomes
- UN GA on prevention and control of NCDs (September 2011) calls for “increased access to affordable, safe

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