

2018 NCD Political Declaration:¹ 10 takeaways for the UN system

1. 4 x 4² is expanded to 5 x 5 by including mental health conditions and air pollution.
2. Every year, over 15 million people aged 30-70 die from NCDs. Most of these premature deaths could have been avoided. 86% of these deaths occur in developing countries. NCDs will cost developing countries USD 7 trillion over the next 15 years.
3. Whilst the probability of dying from a major NCD between the ages of 30 and 70 continues to decline (22% in 2000 to 18% in 2016), the rate is insufficient to meet SDG target 3.4.
4. Existing cost-effective, affordable and evidence-based interventions exist and need to be scaled up.
5. National NCD investment cases need to be developed to inform countries about the costs of NCDs, the return on investment from prevention and treatment, and links to poverty and socio-economic development.
6. The primary role and responsibility for beating NCDs lies with presidents and prime-ministers.
7. Governments need to mobilize civil society and the private sector, as appropriate, for implementing national NCDs responses, while giving due regard to managing conflicts of interest.
8. Mechanisms for national multi-stakeholder dialogue and accountability are critical.
9. There is need to mobilize and allocate adequate, predictable and sustained resources for national NCD responses through domestic, bilateral and multilateral channels, as well as the private sector.
10. The UN system needs to step up its efforts to meet the requests for technical cooperation from Member States. WHO must continue to lead the UN Inter-Agency Task Force and explore options for innovative financing to support national NCD control efforts.

The Task Force Strategy, 2019-2021 has four priorities that respond to the Political Declaration



Provide context-specific technical assistance to support countries deliver multisectoral action on the NCD-related SDG targets.



Mobilize resources to support the development of national responses to reach the NCD-related SDG targets.



Forge multi-stakeholder partnerships to achieve public health and NCD-related SDG targets.



Be an exemplar for UN reform in line with the UN Secretary-General's commitment to reposition the UN development system to deliver on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT HAVE COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO ACTION. HEADS OF UN SYSTEM AGENCIES MUST DO THE SAME

¹ Political declaration of the Third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of NCDs: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/2

² Four diseases (cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic lung diseases) and four risk factors (tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diets and physical inactivity).

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