

NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES  
**PROGRESS MONITOR 2015**



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# FOREWORD

Each year, 16 million people die prematurely before the age of 70 from NCDs. Strikingly, 4 out of 5 of these deaths occur in developing countries, making such diseases one of the major development challenges of the 21st century. If countries don't change tack on NCDs, an estimated \$7 trillion could be lost in developing countries over the next 15 years. This contrasts starkly with the cost of action: \$11 billion a year to implement a set of NCD "best buy" interventions in all developing countries.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the huge impact of NCDs worldwide – an issue that the Millennium Development Goals did not address. The aim is to reduce premature deaths from NCDs by one-third by 2030 (SDG target 3.4), strengthen implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (3.a), strengthen the prevention and treatment to reduce the harmful use of alcohol (3.5), support the research and development on medicines for NCDs that primarily affect developing countries (3.b), and achieve universal health coverage (3.8). This historic turning point for our world to include NCDs in the scope and character of the Sustainable Development Goals is grounded in the commitments made by world leaders at two high-level meetings of the UN General Assembly in 2011 and 2014 to track the epidemic proportions of NCDs and its impact on development, make prevention the cornerstone of the global response, and strengthen health systems.

The successful inclusion of NCDs in the new development agenda gives important positive momentum to the next stretch of reducing premature deaths from NCDs which will culminate in 2018 with the third High-level Meeting on NCDs at the UN General Assembly. To promote accountability, WHO defined 10 indicators which the WHO Director-General will use to report to the UN General Assembly towards the end of 2017 on the progress made by countries in implementing their 2011 and 2014 commitments to develop ambitious national NCD responses.

This progress monitor, based on most recent data tracked against the 10 progress indicators, provides a snap shot of achievements and challenges faced by developed and developing countries in fulfilling the promises made in 2011 and 2014 in all countries and for all people. It shows that we are now firmly on the path to tangible progress on the ground, but that only by staying engaged in 2015 and 2016 will we set a positive tone for the global change in 2017, in preparation for the third high-level meeting in 2018.

This progress monitor is launched on the occasion of the 2015 UN Sustainable Development Summit to urge UN Member States to do whatever it will take to ensure that the promises towards a world free of the avoidable burden of NCDs are fully implemented. We must build a future that ensures that globalization becomes a positive force for all current and future generations.

**Dr Oleg Chestnov**

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# EXPLANATORY NOTES

## Background

In May 2015 the World Health Organization published a Technical Note (1) on how WHO will report in 2017 to the United Nations General Assembly on the progress achieved in the implementation of national commitments included in the 2011 UN Political Declaration and the 2014 UN Outcome Document on NCDs. The Technical Note included a set of ten progress monitoring indicators which are intended to show the progress achieved in countries in the implementation of the four time-bound commitments for 2015 and 2016 included in the 2014 Outcome Document. The ten progress indicators, linked to the four time-bound commitments, are as follows:

By 2015, consider setting national NCD targets for 2025:

1

**Member State has set time-bound national targets and indicators based on WHO guidance**

2

**Member State has a functioning system for generating reliable cause-specific mortality data on a routine basis**

3

**Member State has a STEPS survey or a comprehensive health examination survey every 5 years**

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