Background and Overview

Three interlinked Global Health Sector Strategies (GHSS) are being developed by the World Health Organization for consideration by the 69th World Health Assembly in 2016 addressing HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections (STI). The 2016-2021 strategies cover a critical phase for all three health areas as they guide actions needed to meet ambitious Sustainable Development targets for 2030 focused on ending these epidemics as major public health threats.

The three global health sector strategies have been developed in response to discussions and resolutions from past World Health Assemblies, involving a broad consultation process with Member States and key stakeholders. This briefing followed three well attended events held in Geneva: a World Health Assembly Technical Briefing held on 25 May 2015, and Geneva country missions’ briefing/information sessions held on 30 June 2015 and 5 October 2015.

The three strategies are being considered as agenda item 9.2 of the 138th Session of the WHO Executive Board in January 2016. WHO Secretariat reports introducing and summarizing the draft strategies are in the process of being posted on the Executive Board (EB138) website [http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_eb138.html](http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_eb138.html) with complete versions of the draft strategies available in English on the following WHO web pages:


Translation of the full versions of the draft strategies are in process and should be available in early January 2016.

The session was organised to ensure missions had a further opportunity to be fully briefed on the full versions of the draft strategies prior to the upcoming Executive Board meeting. A total of 35 Member States missions were represented. A list of missions and organizations present is attached to this meeting summary (Annex 1).

Information Session: Key Points

Introduction by Dr Gottfried Hirnschall, Director, Department of HIV and Global Hepatitis Programme

All three strategies will contribute to the attainment of goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
The strategies use a common structure to set out a vision, goals, targets and actions towards eliminating the diseases as public health threats and promote a long-term, sustainable response that will be bolstered by strengthening health systems and community responses.

A comprehensive consultation process has helped inform the strategy content including with: Member States; technical experts and partners; civil society; development partners; UN agencies and other stakeholders including through an online consultation. The strategies have been highlighted during WHO Regional Committees.

The strategies describe actions for countries and actions for WHO and the strategies are organized around five strategic directions:

1. Strategic information for focus and accountability
2. Interventions for impact: essential package of services and interventions
3. Delivering for quality and equity: populations and locations
4. Financing for sustainability

While Member States have expressed broad support for the three strategies concerns have been expressed around three areas: financial and resource constraints; sensitive areas linked to human rights and key populations; and ensuring there is an appropriate balance of interventions proposed in the strategies for country level implementation.

Additional remarks by Dr Lale Say, Acting Director, Department of Reproductive Health and Research (RHR)

There are an estimated 357 million new cases of four curable STIs among people aged 15-49 years every year and the strategy focuses on three infections that require immediate action for control: *N. gonorrhoea* because of the rising risk of untreated drug-resistant gonorrhoea; *T. pallidum* with the elimination of congenital syphilis which implies control of syphilis in key populations and strong systems to ensure screening and treatment of all pregnant women; Human papillomavirus with an emphasis on HPV vaccination toward the elimination of cervical cancer and genital warts. All three strategies seek to help secure resilient and sustainable health systems through their implementation.

Discussion

Short interventions were made by Brazil, South Africa and the United States. Member States shared their appreciation for organizing the information session and for the consultative and open manner used to develop the three strategies. Appreciation was shared on the inclusion of financing in the strategies given the challenging resource environment. The Executive Board reports and the full draft strategies will be reviewed by Member States and consideration will be given to the possibility of tabling a resolution related to the strategies.

Concluding remarks

The WHO departments of HIV and RHR offered to respond to any queries from Member States in preparation for the Executive Board for consideration at the World Health Assembly in May 2016.
Annex 1: Missions/Organisations Present

− Permanent Mission of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland

− Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

− The Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations Office and the Specialized Institutions at Geneva

− Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva


− Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva

− Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations Office and specialized institutions in Geneva

− Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva

− The Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva

− Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations Office and Specialized Institutions at Geneva

− Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva

− Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

− Permanent Mission of the Republic of Ecuador to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

− Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations Office and Specialized Institutions at Geneva and other International Organizations having their Headquarters in Switzerland

− Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

− The Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva

− Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland

− Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations Office and Specialized Institutions at Geneva

− The Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland
− Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva
− Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
− Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations Office and other Specialized Institutions at Geneva
− The Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva
− Permanent Mission of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
− The Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva
− Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva
− The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva
− The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva
− Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland
− The Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva
− Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
− Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva
− Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva