DISCUSSION PAPER

First Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Noncommunicable Disease Control (Moscow, 28-29 April 2011)

1. Background and context

The global burden of noncommunicable disease continues to grow; tackling it constitutes one of the major challenges for development in the twenty-first century. Noncommunicable diseases (NCD), primarily cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and diabetes, caused an estimated 35 million deaths in 2005 with mortality projected to increase by 17% by 2015. Eighty per cent the deaths occurred in low- and middle-income countries. By 2030, 8 out of the 10 leading causes of death will be linked to these conditions. The four major groups of NCDs share four major risk factors: tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and the harmful use of alcohol. The burden of NCDs poses serious implications for social and economic development worldwide, but particularly for low- and middle-income countries.

In 2000, the World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA53.17 which endorsed the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases. The Strategy provides global vision for addressing the leading causes of disease burden and death through monitoring NCD and their determinants, reducing the shared risk factors, and promoting access to health care. In May 2008, the Sixty-first World Health Assembly endorsed an implementation plan to translate the global strategy into concrete action. The Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases is intended to support coordinated, comprehensive and integrated implementation of strategies and evidence-based interventions across individual NCDs, their risk factors and determinants, both at the global and national levels through the achievement of six broad objectives. Under each objective, the plan recommends three sets of action: for Members States, international partners, and the WHO Secretariat, to be implemented over a period of six years (2008-2013).

In order to scale up global action to address NCDs and help galvanize the global community to implement the Global Strategy and its Action plan, the Government of the Russian Federation and WHO are organizing a Global Ministerial Conference in Moscow from 28 to 30 April 2011.

Objectives of the Global Ministerial Conference are as follows:

- To provide a forum to
  - review lessons learned from international best practices in promoting healthy lifestyles and institutionalizing NCDs into global and national health and sustainable development frameworks;
  - highlight the essential role and accountability of the sectors outside health on the impact of their policies on the health of individuals and populations.
- identify feasible approaches to reorient and strengthen health systems to enable them to respond more effectively and equitably to the health-care needs of people with NCDs;
- advocate for strategies that will reduce exposure of populations to the shared modifiable risk factors and unhealthy life styles
- present evidence relating to the magnitude of socio-economic impact of the NCD burden in Member States and the pressing need to strengthen global and national initiatives to prevent NCD to international leaders and policy makers
- share new and innovative approaches towards NCD prevention and control

The outcome of the Global Ministerial Conference, which includes a Declaration, will provide a platform for discussion during the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases, which will take place in New York in September 2011 with the participation of Heads of State and Government.

2. Organizational framework for the Global Ministerial Conference

The technical aspects of the Global Ministerial Conference are being organized by an International Steering Committee.

International Steering Committee

Roles and responsibilities:
- To make recommendations to the Organizing Committee on the technical aspects of the Conference, including the scope, programme, scientific sessions, background papers and documentation, and the outcome.
- To monitor and advise on the implementation of the scientific programme.

Co-chairs:
- H.E. Professor Veronika Skvortsova, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Development, Russian Federation
- Dr Ala Alwan, Assistant Director-General, World Health Organization

Provisional Members:
- A separate list is attached.

Expected frequency of meetings:
- 24 November 2010 in Oslo, on the occasion of the Regional European High-level Consultation on NCDs (Oslo, 25-26 November 2010)
- January 2011 (dates to be decided during the first meeting)
- Other meetings (face-to-face or by videoconference).
Proposed duties of members of the International Steering Committee:

In keeping with the Committee’s Roles and Responsibilities, the duties of the members of the International Steering Committee are
- To engage in an active role in all technical aspects of the programme planning, content of the scientific sessions, development of background papers and production of the meeting’s outcomes.
- To provide advice with respect to the content and potential authors of the background papers to be prepared for the meeting (including being authors themselves)
- To advise upon the overall meeting format including the scope and content of plenary and breakout sessions
- To critically review drafts of the background papers as they are prepared providing suggestions to the author(s).
- To critically review and provide advice with respect to the proposed outputs to the meeting
- To review and provide direct input into the final report and declaration of the meeting
- To chair/co-chair of breakout sessions and act as discussants on breakout sessions as appropriate

3. Global Ministerial Conference invitees and participants

As the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases involves all government departments, invitations are being extended to Ministers of Health and high-level representatives from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Economic Affairs, International Development Cooperation, Urban Planning and Municipalities, and Finance. Also invited to the Conference will be senior representatives from the Executive Offices of Heads of State and Government. It is envisaged that the total number of participants will be around 600.

4. Proposed structure and format of the Global Ministerial Conference

The following meeting structure is proposed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>28 April 2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00 - 12:00</td>
<td>Opening Plenary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 - 13:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:30 - 17:00</td>
<td>Concurrent Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health financing</td>
<td>NCD &amp; the development agenda</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8</td>
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29 April 2011
It is proposed that the Opening Session will include a formal inauguration ceremony followed by two state-of-the-art presentations, covering the global disease burden, the socio-economic implications, strategies for prevention and control and challenges for implementation.

Eight Concurrent Sessions will provide the opportunity to discuss in detail the conference themes which will provide critical input to the conference final report. Each will have a Chair and Rapporteur, along with a panel of discussants. Each session will begin with a summary presentation by the main author(s) of the Conference Papers prepared for the theme followed by short presentations from the panel discussions. The session will then be opened to general discussion from session participants.

A total of 16 Roundtable Sessions are planned to run at the same time as the larger Concurrent sessions, eight on the afternoon of April 28 and a further 8 on the morning of 29 April. These roundtable sessions will feature three to four discussants dealing with selected NCD policy and technical issues, such as

- Innovative financing of health systems
- The urban environment and health
- Nutrition and agricultural policies
- Education and communications
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Physical activities and sports
- Transportation
- Trade and health

The Closing Plenary will consist of presentations from each of the Rapporteurs of the eight Breakout Sessions (15 minutes each). These presentations will be followed by general discussion from participants.

The Closing Ceremony will provide a summary of the highlights, the key conclusions and recommendations.
5. Global Ministerial Conference outputs and products

The Conference is intended to help Member States to address noncommunicable diseases by

- Raising political will, commitment and capacity to mainstream promotion of healthy lifestyles, NCD prevention, control and health promotion into national and global policies and plans
- Uniting the non-health sector around a common agenda by strengthening the engagement with these sectors to adopt and implement interventions to address NCD risk factors and determinants, using a health-in-all-policies approach promoting mutual understanding with other sectors as equal partners.
- Raising the priority accorded to NCD prevention, commensurate with disease burdens and with the potential for gain and accord a high priority within development agenda by increasing the investment in public health strategies, fiscal and social development of NCD in ODA investment decisions particularly including NCD in poverty reduction strategies.
- Bridging the evidence-policy gap through promoting prevention and implementation research particularly in low- and middle-income countries by providing a prioritized research agenda
- Scaling up implementation of the Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases at the country level.
- Promoting the understanding of potential of prevention initiatives among policy makers
- Promote new and innovative approaches towards NCD prevention and control

The expected outcomes of the Global Ministerial Conference will include a Declaration and a conference report summarizing the main conclusions and recommendations of the Conference.

A number of Conference Papers will be prepared for the meeting. Examples of suggested topics for discussion are attached.

WHO may consider launching a number of products at the Global Ministerial Conference. A list of these products is attached for discussion.
Attachment 1

Meeting of the Members of the International Steering Committee
(Oslo, 24 November 2010)

Provisional list of Members of the International Steering Committee for the First Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Noncommunicable Disease Control

Version dated 16 November 2010

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Potential topics for background papers to be prepared for the Moscow Global Ministerial Conference, April 2011

Monitoring the global epidemic: challenges, priorities and strategies

Ongoing national surveillance and global monitoring are key public health functions essential to NCD prevention and control. Based on international experience and best practices, this paper will review the current global status of NCD surveillance and monitoring with emphasis on low-and middle-income countries, including age-standardized estimates for the prevalence of risk factors and mortality rates for NCD; identify the major challenges and priorities that need to be addressed; and the key strategies for action to be taken by national governments, NGOs and international development agencies.

Intersectoral action and Healthy Lifestyles: Policy options, mechanisms and programmes

Health-in-all-policies and intersectoral action have been identified as critical approaches to comprehensive action on NCD prevention and control. Based on a review of evidence and international experience, this paper will review and provide examples of the policy options available to governments to implement sustainable cross-sectoral initiatives for NCD prevention and control; the governance and programmatic mechanisms needed to be put in place to achieve these ends; and the priority areas for implementation and action. The paper will recommend guidelines to Member States on promoting intersectoral action based on three WHO consultations.

The urban environment and the role of local government in addressing noncommunicable disease risk factors and their determinants

The structure and functioning of municipalities can have a significant positive and/or negative impact on NCD and related prevention efforts. Based on international experience and evidence, this paper will review and provide examples of the key adaptations of the build environment that can be employed in support NCD prevention; the role of the municipal level of government in this regard, particularly the key health enhancing municipal policy initiatives that can be taken in support of NCD prevention.

Health promotion and primary prevention: Cost-effective policy options and best buys for population interventions (Nick)

NCD interventions with compelling public health value per unit of investment help guide policymakers towards actions, policies and budgets with high impact. Based on evidence and global experience, this paper will review and provide examples of sustainable and effective national NCD prevention and control policies and programs with emphasis on

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1 This list is intended to stimulate discussion and input of Members of the International Steering Committee
their feasibility in low income settings consistent with technical and financial capacity; and provide an analysis of key challenges, priorities and strategies for scaling up.

**Health systems strengthening for noncommunicable disease prevention and control: key components to scale up in primary health care (annemeik)**

NCD prevention and control is dependent on well functioning and equitable health systems. Based on evidence and best practices, this paper will review examples of comprehensive evidence-based interventions for NCD control that have been successfully implemented in primary health care settings; provide an analysis of the key determinants of success and adaptation to primary care particularly in low resource settings; and review of the challenges and strategies to scaling-up particularly in low resource settings.

**Health financing options to promote universal coverage of essential health care interventions (WHO WHR 2011)**

The lack of resource availability particularly in low resource settings is a major challenge for NCD control. Based on evidence and international experience this paper will review the key factors that influence a country's capacity to provide the financial resources for universal coverage of essential health care interventions for NCD control; the challenges and strategies to protect individuals from the economic impact of NCD; and analysis of the policy options and health care approaches to obtaining the greatest value for the most people (value for money).

**Inequities and poverty reduction: including the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases as an integral part of work on global development and in related investment decisions (Stuckler & Gauden?)**

NCD are a major cause and result of health inequities and poverty. Based on evidence, this paper will review the economic and social impact of NCD at the population and individual level with emphasis on low income settings; review potential new governance strategies to create political opportunities to strengthen the calls for support of NCD and to consolidate normative guidance and coordinating arrangements to pool funding for NCD; and provide a review of challenges and strategies to raise the profile and impact of NCD on national health priorities.

**Bridging the gaps: Research priorities for health promotion and the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases in developing countries (Shanthi)**

Much is known on what to do about NCD prevention and control but less is known about how to do it particularly in low income settings. This paper will provide a review of key priorities for an implementation research agenda targeted to low income settings; identify areas where adaptation of successful interventions from high income settings are feasible; and identify challenges and strategies for obtaining research funding for low income settings.
**Attachment 3**

*Potential products with references to the six objectives of the NCD Action Plan for possible release at the Moscow Global Ministerial Conference, April 2011*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Products</th>
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| Objective 1 | • Monograph on NCDs and socio-economic development  
• Guidance on mechanisms for intersectoral action |
| Objective 2 | • Results of the third Global Assessment of National Capacity to Address NCDs  
• Framework for national NCD surveillance schemes  
• WHO Global Recommendations on "best buys"  
• White Paper on the review of international experience, including community-based programmes |
| Objective 3 | • WHO Recommendations on Physical Activity for Health  
• WHO Recommendations on 4-6 cost-effective policy interventions to promote healthy diet and physical activity, based on the recommendations contained in Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health |
| Objective 4 | • Finalized version of a prioritized NCD research agenda |
| Objective 5 | • Global solidarity tobacco tax as an innovative financing mechanism for MDGs and NCDs |
| Objective 6 | • WHO Global Status Report on NCDs  
• WHO Global Recommendations on a NCD surveillance package  
• White Paper on possible global goals, targets and indicators (to halt and begin to reverse the prevalence of premature deaths from NCDs) |