Third UN High-level Meeting on Non-communicable Diseases

27 SEPTEMBER 2018
New York
Seven in 10 people worldwide die from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic lung diseases – non-communicable diseases (NCDs) – or 41 million people on average annually. This includes 15 million people dying from a NCD between the ages of 30 and 69 years; more than 85% of these “premature” deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries. Hundreds of millions of people are affected by mental, neurological and substance use disorders – including depression, alcohol dependence, anxiety disorders, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and dementia. Annually, nearly 800,000 people die from suicide.

The development and economic challenges posed by NCDs and mental health conditions are devastating in their own right: over the next 15 years the human and economic costs of NCDs are projected to total more than US $7 trillion in developing countries alone.

The magnitude of the threat posed by NCDs and mental health conditions is great. It is for this reason that world leaders, governments and stakeholders across all sectors of society are viewing the Third United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases as a turning point in the global fight against NCDs and promotion of mental health and well-being. The meeting represents a unique opportunity to scale up action to prevent suffering and avoidable deaths from NCDs.

By implementing cost-effective and life-saving actions, all countries can make progress in promoting the health of their citizens, reducing poverty and inequities and taking meaningful steps to ensure health for all.
The Third UN High-level Meeting on NCDs, on 27 September 2018 during the third day of general debate, will be hosted by the President of the 73rd session of the General Assembly.

The purpose of the meeting is to allow Heads of State and Government to conduct a comprehensive review of the progress achieved in reducing the risk of dying prematurely from NCDs, as agreed at the First High-level Meeting in 2011 and reaffirmed at the Second High-level Meeting in 2014.

The theme of the meeting is “Scaling up multi-stakeholder and multisectoral responses for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

The two previous meetings resulted in a number of national commitments for implementation in 2015 and 2016 to reduce risks for developing NCDs, provide better care for people living with NCDs, and track trends and progress in the fight against NCDs.
Further, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Heads of State and Government made a bold commitment in SDG target 3.4—to reduce, by 2030, premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by one-third, through prevention and treatment and the promotion of mental health and well-being.
WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Turning the tide on NCDs and ensuring all people can attain the highest level of health can be achieved only through committed leadership from the highest levels of national governments.

But for action to be undertaken and results to be sustained, many other players must undertake coordinated steps.

For these reasons, the Third High-level Meeting on NCDs requires attendance and support from multiple sectors, including:

- **Heads of State and Government**
- **Parliamentarians**
- **Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Finance and Health**
- **Heads or senior representatives of relevant United Nations entities, civil society, the private sector, philanthropic foundations, academia, medical associations, indigenous leadership and community organizations**

The participation of other sectors in the High-Level Meeting and the UN Interactive Hearing on NCDs, held on 5 July 2018 in New York, have been important parts of the collaborative nature of this process.
## STRUCTURE OF THE THIRD HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 10.00 – 11.00 | Opening segment  
(Conference room 4)                                           |
| 11.00 – 13.00 | Plenary  
(Conference room 4)  
Multi-stakeholder panel 1  
(Trusteeship Council Chamber) |
| 15.00 – 17.00 | Plenary  
(Conference room 4)  
Multi-stakeholder panel 2  
(Trusteeship Council Chamber) |
| 17.00 – 17.30 | Plenary  
(Conference room 4) |
| 17.30 – 18.00 | Closing segment  
(Conference room 4) |

- **The opening segment** will feature statements by the President of the General Assembly, the United Nations Secretary-General, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), a member of the WHO Independent High-level Commission on NCDs, and an eminent champion of the fight against NCDs.

- **Two plenary segments** will comprise statements by Member States and observers of the General Assembly; the time limits for these statements will be three minutes for individual delegations and five minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States. Each of the two multi-stakeholder panels will be co-chaired by two representatives from among the Heads of State and Government attending.

- **The multi-stakeholder Panel 1 will address the theme of** strengthening health systems and financing for the prevention and control of NCDs, on each country’s path towards achieving universal health coverage, including through sharing evidence-based best practices, scientific knowledge and lessons learned.

- **The multi-stakeholder Panel 2 will address the theme of** opportunities and challenges in engaging governments, civil society and the private sector at global, regional and national levels to promote multisectoral partnerships for the prevention and control of NCDs and the promotion of healthy lifestyles.

- **The closing segment** will comprise summaries of the multi-stakeholder panels and concluding remarks by the President of the General Assembly.
HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

Two plenaries will provide a platform for world leaders to disseminate lessons learned and highlight successful national approaches.

Two multi-stakeholder panels

- Strengthening health systems and financing for the prevention and control of NCDs, on each country’s path towards achieving universal health coverage, including through sharing evidence-based best practices, scientific knowledge and lessons learned.

- Opportunities and challenges in engaging governments, civil society and the private sector at global, regional and national levels to promote multisectoral partnerships for the prevention and control of NCDs and the promotion of healthy lifestyles.

Side events

Numerous side events inside the UN and around the city will provide an opportunity for all stakeholders from various sectors to debate issues at the forefront of the NCD fight.
NCDs AND MENTAL HEALTH: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

THE THREAT

Cardiovascular diseases
Chronic respiratory diseases
Cancer
Diabetes
Mental health conditions

Key Facts

NCDs are responsible for 71% of all deaths worldwide (41 million people)

Each year...

the lives of 15 million people are cut short due to NCDs

Nearly 800,000 people die from suicide

Every 2 seconds someone aged 30 to 70 years dies prematurely from NCDs

Poorer people are disproportionately affected by NCDs and mental health conditions
5 main NCD risks

- Unhealthy diet
- Tobacco use
- Air pollution
- Harmful use of alcohol
- Physical inactivity

Call to action

Greater action is needed to:
- Protect people from NCDs
- Achieve SDGs
- Promote human rights

Meet SDG 3.4 to, by 2030, reduce by 1/3 premature mortality from NCDs and promote mental health and well-being

THE BENEFITS

Most premature deaths and suffering from NCDs are avoidable

Invest for a healthy future

Cost-effective, life-saving interventions to protect people exist

These interventions can save 8.2 million lives in poorer countries and generate US$350 billion in economic growth by 2030

$1 >>> $7

Every US$1 invested to tackle NCDs will have a return of at least US$7 by 2030
WHAT GOVERNMENTS CAN DO TO PROMOTE HEALTH

Advance universal health coverage

- Access to quality services
- Access to affordable services
- Protection from financial risk

Implement policies, engage the public

- Ensure healthy diets
- Make health risks clear
- Leverage taxes
- Tighten laws and regulations
- Generate data for health
- Create healthy cities and environments
Challenges impeding progress

1. lack of political will, commitment, capacity, and action
2. lack of policies and plans for NCDs
3. difficulty in priority-setting
4. impact of economic, commercial, and market factors
5. insufficient technical and operational capacity
6. insufficient (domestic and international) financing to scale up national NCD responses; and
7. lack of accountability

It’s time for the world to deliver and protect people and communities and #beatNCDs

TOGETHER LET’S BEAT NCDs
www.who.int/beat-ncds


