Q AND A

How WHO will report in 2017 to the United Nations General Assembly on the progress achieved in the implementation of commitments included in the 2011 UN Political Declaration and 2014 UN Outcome Document on NCDs

20 most frequently asked questions and answers

Question 1:
Why did the WHO Secretariat publish a technical note on 1 May 2015 on how it will report to the UN General Assembly in 2017 on progress achieved in addressing NCDs?

Paragraph 38 of the 2014 UN Outcome Document on NCDs¹ “requests the (United Nations) Secretary-General, in collaboration with Member States, the World Health Organization and relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to submit to the (United Nations) General Assembly, by the end of 2017, for consideration by Member States, a report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the 2014 Outcome Document² and the 2011 Political Declaration³, in preparation for a comprehensive review (of the United Nations General Assembly), in 2018, of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of NCDs”.

Accordingly, and similar to 2013⁴, the WHO Director-General will submit a report by the end of 2017 to the United Nations Secretary-General, who will transmit the report as the “Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the prevention and control of NCDs” to the United Nations General Assembly for consideration by Member States.

Decision EB136(13)⁵ of the 136th session of the WHO Executive Board (Geneva, 26 January – 3 February 2015) decided to “request the Director-General to publish a technical note in the coming months on how the Director-General will report in 2017 to the United Nations General Assembly on the national commitments included in the 2014 Outcome Document and the 2011 Political Declaration, using existing survey tools and taking into account existing indicators at the global and regional levels”.

The technical note published by the WHO Secretariat on 1 May 2015 was prepared in response to this request.

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¹ Resolution A/RES/68/300 available at http://www.who.int/nmh/events/2014/a-res-68-300.pdf?ua=1
² Short for resolution A/RES/68/300
³ Short for resolution A/RES/66/2 available at http://www.who.int/nmh/events/un_ncd_summit2011/political_declaration_en.pdf?ua=1
Question 2:
When did the WHO Secretariat complete its work on the technical note?

The WHO Secretariat developed the technical note in February, March and April 2015. The technical note was published on 1 May 2015.

Question 3:
What process did the WHO Secretariat follow to develop the technical note?

The technical note was developed following an internal consultation process which involved the three levels of the Organization. Decision EB136(13) did not provide the WHO Secretariat with a mandate to develop the technical note in (formal or informal) consultations or collaboration with Member States, United Nations organizations and/or non-State actors.

Question 4:
What was the methodology used to develop the set of 10 progress indicators?

A separate paper is available to describe the methodology which the WHO Secretariat used to develop the set of 10 progress indicators which the WHO Director-General will use to report, by the end of 2017, to the United Nations General Assembly on the progress achieved in the implementation of the time-bound commitments included in the 2014 Outcome Document.

Question 5:
Why is the technical note not included in the report of the WHO Director-General on the “Follow-up to the 2014 high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to undertake a comprehensive review and assessment of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of NCDs” (document A68/11) which was submitted to the Sixty-Eighth World Health Assembly for consideration by Member States?

Decision EB136(13) did not request that the technical note be submitted to the WHO Governing Bodies for consideration by Member States. Accordingly, paragraph 25 of the relevant report of the Director-General to the Sixty-Eighth World Health Assembly (document A68/11) states that “Pursuant to decision EB136(13), the Secretariat is currently completing its work on a technical note on that reporting, which will be published on the relevant pages of the WHO website in due time”.

Question 6:
Will Member States at the Sixty-Eighth World Health Assembly be invited to endorse the technical note?

No. The technical note is not part of document A68/11 (for the reasons explained above) and, therefore, will not be considered by Member States under the NCD-related agenda items at the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly.

Question 7:
Will Member States be briefed on the content of the technical note?

Yes. The WHO Secretariat will organize a technical briefing during the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly entitled “Getting to 2018: Preparing for the third UN High-level Meeting on NCDs”, which

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6 Available at www.who.int/ncd
7 Available at http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA68/A68_11-en.pdf
8 www.who.int/ncd
will take place on Thursday 21 May 2015 from 12:30 to 14:15 in Room XII at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The technical briefing will provide an opportunity to brief Member States on the content of the technical note and to provide clarifications.

Question 8:
When and how will the WHO Secretariat collect country data on these 10 progress indicators?

Similar to 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2013, the WHO Secretariat will conduct the NCD Capacity Survey (CCS) in 2015 and 2017. The CCS in 2015 will be conducted between May 2015 and August 2015 and will capture data for a number of these indicators. Other indicators will use data already collected by WHO in routine reporting, such as for mortality, the WHO Global Tobacco Control Report and the WHO Global Information System on Alcohol and Health.

Question 9:
Will these 10 progress indicators provide an additional reporting burden for countries?

No. The CCS includes 500 variables across 4 domains. The CCS in 2015 and 2017 will include many of the 10 progress indicators. Indicators not included in the CCS are already routinely captured by WHO in other data systems based on country reported data.

Question 10:
Will the WHO Secretariat publish the country data collected?

Yes. Both in 2015 and 2017. In 2015, country data on the 10 progress indicators (based on the CCS in 2015 and other routine reporting systems) will be published in September 2015 as part of an advocacy document which will be launched in New York on the occasion of the UN Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda (25-27 September 2015). The 2015 advocacy document will include individual country profiles which will display the (verified) data collected through the CCS and other routine reporting systems in 2015 for the 10 progress indicators. In 2017, country data on the 10 progress indicators (based on the CCS in 2017) will be attached as a statistical annex to the “Note by the United Nations Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the prevention and control of NCDs”. The annex will display individual country data related to the 10 progress indicators.

Question 11:
Will country data on these 10 progress indicators be submitted to the United Nations General Assembly in 2017?

Yes. See question 10.

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9 See the Journals for the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly available at [http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha68.html](http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha68.html)
13 See [http://www.who.int/chp/ncd_capacity/en/](http://www.who.int/chp/ncd_capacity/en/)
Question 12:
**Why is an existing progress indicator x from region y not included in the set of 10 progress indicators?**

The 10 progress indicators carry forward the spirit of many existing indicators at global and regional levels, taking into account the variables included in the CCS in 2015 and 2017, and other indicators already routinely collated by WHO. More information is available in a separate document which describes the methodology used to develop the set of 10 progress indicators.16

Question 13:
**Why did the WHO Secretariat not include some of the nine process indicators towards the implementation of the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020 in the set of nine progress indicators?**

The nine action plan indicators17 to inform reporting on progress made in the process of implementing the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020 will assess overall progress made in implementing the global action plan, but not the 2011 Political Declaration and the 2014 Outcome Document.

Question 14:
**How do the 10 progress indicators relate to the global accountability framework for NCDs?**

The global accountability framework for NCDs includes reporting on progress to the World Health Assembly, the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), as follows:

- **World Health Assembly:** Paragraph 3.9 of resolution WHA66.10 requests the WHO Director-General to submit reports on progress made in implementing the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020 to the World Health Assembly in 2016, 2018 and 2021 (taking into account the nine NCD action plan indicators adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2014), and reports on progress achieved in attaining the nine voluntary global targets in 2016, 2021 and 2026 (taking into account the 25 outcome indicators adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2013).

- **United Nations General Assembly:** Paragraph 38 of resolution A/RES/68/300 requests that a report on the progress achieved in implementing the 2011 UN Political Declaration and the 2014 UN Outcome Document on NCDs be submitted to the UN General Assembly by the end of 2017, in preparation for the third high-level meeting on NCDs in 2018. The technical note published by the World Health Organization on 1 May 2015 pursuant to decision EB136(13) provides clarity on the set of indicators which the WHO Director-General will use to report, by the end of 2017, to the United Nations General Assembly on the progress achieved in the implementation of the four time-bound commitments included in the 2014 UN Outcome Document on NCDs.

- **ECOSOC:** Paragraph 3 of resolution E/RES/2014/1018 requests the (United Nations) Secretary-General to report to ECOSOC at its 2015 session on the implementation of its resolution 2013/12. This reporting relates to the progress made in the implementation of the 42 actions included in the work plan 2014-2015 of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs19. This reporting does not include reporting on specific outcome, process or progress indicators at global or national levels.

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16 Available at [www.who.int/ncd](http://www.who.int/ncd)
17 Adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2014
A table providing an overview of the global accountability framework on NCDs is available in Annex 2 of document A68/11\(^{20}\).

**Question 16:**
What is the format of the “Note of the (United Nations) Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the prevention and control of NCDs” which will be submitted towards the end of 2017 to the United Nations General Assembly for consideration by Member States?

The format of the report in 2017 will be similar to 2013. It will include an introduction, a second chapter where we stand, a third chapter on progress made in realizing global commitments and assignments, a fourth chapter on progress made in realizing national commitments (with a particular focus on the four time-bound national commitments for 2015 and 2016), a fifth chapter on international cooperation, and a sixth chapter with recommendations. Different from report in 2013, the report in 2017 will include an annex with individual county data on the 10 progress indicators.

**Question 17:**
How do the 10 progress indicators relate to the ongoing discussions on indicators for the NCD-related target in the proposed Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030?

Indicators for the NCD related target in the proposed Sustainable Development Goals 2015 – 2030 relate to outcomes rather than progress. Therefore, there is no relationship between the set of 10 progress indicators and ongoing discussions in New York under the auspices of the UN Statistical Commission on the development of the indicator framework for the post-2015 development agenda.

**Question 18:**
Is the set of 10 progress indicators a “scorecard” to “rate” countries?

No. The set of 10 progress indicators provide clarity to Member States on how the WHO Director-General will report in 2017 on progress achieved in realizing the national commitments included in the 2011 UN Political Declaration and 2014 UN Outcome Document on NCDs.

**Question 19:**
Why is the set of 10 progress indicators organized around the four time-bound commitments included the 2014 UN Outcome Document on NCDs? What about the other national commitments included in the 2011 UN Political Declaration and 2014 UN Outcome Document on NCDs? Was the entire road map of national commitments included in the 2011 UN Political Declaration and 2014 UN Outcome Document on NCDs considered during the development of the 10 progress indicators?

A crosswalk between the national commitments included in the 2011 Political Declaration and 2014 Outcome Document is available in Annex 2 of the Appendix to the technical note, which explains the methodology used. The crosswalk indicates the following:
- The majority of national commitments included in the 2011 Political Declaration are also included in the 2014 Outcome Document.
- Specific national commitments in the area of prevention and reduction of risk factors set out in the 2011 Political Declaration are covered in the 2014 Outcome Document by the national time-bound commitment to “by 2016, as appropriate, reduce risk factors for NCDs and underlying

social determinants through the implementation of interventions and policy options to create health-promoting environments, building on guidance set out in Appendix 3 to the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020”21.

– Specific national commitments in the area of health care set out in the 2011 Political Declaration are covered in the 2014 Outcome Document by the national time-bound commitment to “by 2016, as appropriate, strengthen and orient health systems to address the prevention and control of NCDs and the underlying social determinants through people-centred primary health care and universal health coverage throughout the life cycle, building on guidance set out in Appendix 3 to the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020”22.

– The 2014 Outcome Document includes a number of new national commitments in the area of governance, as well as surveillance, monitoring and evaluation, which were not included in the 2011 Political Declaration.

**Question 20:**
**What do countries need to do as a next step?**

The 2014 Outcome Document includes four time-bound commitments which Ministers have committed themselves to prioritize by 2015 and 2016:

– by 2015, consider setting national targets for 2025 and process indicators based on national situations, taking into account the nine voluntary global targets for NCDs

– by 2015, consider developing or strengthening national multisectoral policies and plans to achieve the national targets by 2025, taking into account the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020

– by 2016, as appropriate, reduce risk factors for NCDs and underlying social determinants through the implementation of interventions and policy options to create health-promoting environments, building on guidance set out in Appendix 3 to the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020

– by 2016, as appropriate, strengthen and orient health systems to address the prevention and control of NCDs and underlying social determinants through people-centred primary health care and universal health coverage throughout the life cycle, building on guidance set out in Appendix 3 to the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013–2020.

Countries need to continue their national efforts to realize these commitments.

**Will WHO provide further information on how the 10 progress indicators will be calculated?**

Yes. WHO will publish a separate guidance note detailing the 10 indicator definitions and specifications, including the criteria for achievement of each indicator, during the first half of May 2015.

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21 Paragraph 30(b) of resolution A/RES/68/300
22 Paragraph 30(c) of resolution A/RES/68/300
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