

# WHO Forum on alcohol, drugs and addictive behaviours

Enhancing public health actions through partnerships and collaboration

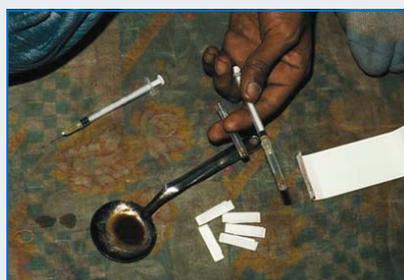
**26-28 June 2017**

WHO headquarters

Geneva, Switzerland



*“The World Health Organization (WHO) Forum on alcohol, drugs and addictive behaviours is a new initiative that will strengthen international partnerships and collaboration in order to tackle some of the most pressing issues of our time. Harmful use of alcohol as well as drugs and addictive behaviours have devastating effects on individuals, families and their communities and have enormous socioeconomic impacts at national and global levels. We have a shared responsibility to prevent and reduce this burden.”*



**Dr Oleg Chestnov**  
Assistant Director-General  
Noncommunicable Diseases  
and Mental Health  
World Health Organization



**World Health  
Organization**

# WHO Forum on alcohol, drugs and addictive behaviours

*Enhancing public health actions through partnerships and collaboration*

## Overview

The World Health Organization (WHO) Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse organizes, for the first time, the global Forum on alcohol, drugs and addictive behaviours (FADAB) with a primary goal to enhance public health actions in these areas by strengthening partnerships and collaboration among public health oriented organizations, networks and institutions in the era of Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDG 2030).

Target 3.5 of SDG Goal 3 sets out a commitment by governments to strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, target 3.4 - to prevent and treat noncommunicable diseases and promote mental health, target 3.8 - to achieve universal health coverage.

Achieving these targets will place renewed demands on WHO at all levels, and meeting these demands require WHO and other public health oriented organizations, networks and institutions to enhance public health actions on alcohol, drugs and addictive behaviours in implementation of the global and regional policy frameworks, strategies and action plans.

The Forum will provide an opportunity for a diverse group of stakeholders to build new and develop existing partnerships, networks and collaborative projects as well as discuss a variety of topics organized around three major thematic tracks:

- Alcohol control and implementation of the Global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol endorsed by the World Health Assembly
- Public health dimension of the world drug problem with a focus on health-related operational recommendations endorsed by the special session of the UN General Assembly on the world drug problem
- Public health implications of addictive behaviours,

and the following cross-cutting issues:

- Funding mechanisms for prevention and treatment of disorders due to substance use and addictive behaviours
- Monitoring progress in achieving the relevant SDG 2030 targets
- Disorders due to substance use and addictive behaviours in the 11th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11).

It is expected that the Forum will discuss the main priorities for global collaborative activities in the above-mentioned areas, advance the current international cooperation and facilitate new developments through strengthened partnerships and collaboration. Background papers prepared by the WHO Secretariat and relevant publications of WHO and other public health oriented organizations and institutions will serve as supporting materials for discussions.

## The Forum is by invitation only.

### You may be invited because:

... as a policy-maker engaged in priority setting, development and evaluation of prevention and treatment strategies, you are keen to join a global forum that will lead to new partnerships and engagement with others to identify, develop and implement cutting-edge strategies and programmes

... as a health-care provider or commissioner, you want to join a global forum sharing with and learning from your peers on sharpening and implementing new approaches for prevention, screening, and treatment interventions, and understand better how evidence-based prevention and treatment can be financed and implemented

... as a Focal point for this area in a Permanent Mission in Geneva, you would like to know more about WHO activities, partnerships and other international efforts

... as an official of an intergovernmental organization, or a United Nations specialized agency, you want to take up the opportunity to join a global, united force, to meet other experts and influencers face to face, and to strengthen your networks

... as a representative of a professional association or other nongovernmental organization, you are eager to be part of a forum where you can interact with all key players to seize advocacy opportunities to better position your work in furthering policy and programme changes

... as an academic, you want to benefit from a global platform to explore ways for knowledge translation, identify research gaps and join forces with new partners in developing and actioning new research agendas

... as representing a philanthropic foundation, you want to be part of a global movement that meets new players and opens new solutions for your foundation to improve health and well-being of populations

... as a representative of a non-state entity that is genuinely concerned with the scope and magnitude of public health problems related to alcohol, drugs and addictive behaviours, you would like to explore ways to better contribute to reduce these problems

... as a specialist working in the media sector, you are looking for a platform where to be fully informed of the global issues at stake.

Enquiries: +41 (0) 22 791 43 85

E-mail: [msb@who.int](mailto:msb@who.int)



EXIT THE MAZE OF  
SUBSTANCE USE AND  
ADDICTIVE BEHAVIOURS  
FOR BETTER HEALTH

[www.who.int/substance\\_abuse/en/](http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/en/)

Photo credits : WHO /Sergey Volkov/Dag Rekve