“Countries within the different WHO regions have started to implement the strategies, and to share experiences, through a global forum on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases....”

Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director General
World Health Organization
Report of the Director-General 2001

The Global Forum:

1. Encourages the development of national integrated NCD prevention and control strategies and programmes including community-based initiatives, surveillance and demonstration projects.
2. Supports regional networks through collaboration and partnership with government agencies, NGOs, research and academic institutions.
3. Promotes collaborative research to evaluate integrated NCD prevention and control programmes.
4. Identifies best practices and disseminates results.
5. Sets and maintains standards through the sharing of information and protocols.
6. Increases awareness of the need to invest in NCD prevention and control initiatives. Ensures that NCD prevention is placed on top of the agenda of health care policies.
7. Contributes to training and capacity building. Develops guidance packages for NCD prevention and control, particularly in low and middle income countries.

Participants of the Global Forum

- The regional networks for integrated NCD prevention and control: CARMEN in the Americas, CINDI in Europe, EMAN in the Eastern Mediterranean, NANDI in Africa MOANA in the Western Pacific Region and the network in the South East Asia Region
- Representatives from WHO HQ and Regional Offices
- International agencies such as the World Bank
- Major international NGOs, such as World Heart Federation, International Diabetes Federation, International Union against Cancer
- WHO Collaborating Centres

Bridging the gap

Scientific knowledge

Policy and action

Global forum & Regional networks

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Global Forum
on integrated NCD prevention and control

Together in global action

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are the leading causes of death and disability worldwide. The World Health Report 2000 states that the mortality, morbidity and disability attributed to the major noncommunicable diseases currently account for about 60% of all deaths and 43% of the global burden of disease. Low and middle income countries suffer 79% of the deaths attributed to these diseases and 85% of the burden of disease.

Four of the most prominent NCDs - cardiovascular disease, cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and diabetes - are linked by common preventable risk factors, the main ones being tobacco use, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity. Prevention of NCDs must focus on controlling the risk factors in the population in an integrated and cost-effective manner.
In May 2000, the World Health Assembly (WHA) adopted a resolution (WHA/53.17) endorsing a WHO Global Strategy for the prevention of NCDs.

The WHA 2000 requested the Director-General of WHO to continue giving priority to the prevention and control of NCDs.

The WHA 2000 requested Member States to develop national policy frameworks and to promote community-based initiatives for the prevention of NCDs through comprehensive risk-factor approaches and based on best evidence available.

The Global Forum on NCD prevention and control, an integral component of the WHO Global Strategy, is key to disseminating information, exchanging experiences and best practices, and supporting national and regional initiatives.

Joint action on the main risk-factors is an efficient, cost effective and sustainable way to reduce the incidence of the major NCDs.

Convincing evidence shows the potential of preventive programmes and policies for NCD prevention and control.

The first meeting of the Global Forum was convened at WHO Headquarters in Geneva from 12-13 November 2001. The meeting defined the objectives, functions, key areas and methods of the Global Forum on NCD prevention and control and developed conclusions and recommendations.

**Goal of the Global Forum**

The goal of the Global Forum is to contribute to Global NCD prevention by promoting integrated NCD prevention and control, particularly in low and middle income countries, working through regional networks in line with the Global Strategy approved by the 53rd World Health Assembly.

**Facts**

- Noncommunicable diseases (NCD) represent a significant and growing burden on public health and on health services, particularly in low and middle income countries that have also to cope with the ongoing threat of communicable diseases.

- In all countries, NCDs are increasingly affecting lower socio-economic groups, contributing to poverty.

- Research over the past 30 years has demonstrated that the bulk of NCDs are preventable.