Call for Expression of Interest to participate in the WHO Guideline Development Group for the updating of the 2010 Global Recommendations on Physical Activity in Youth, Adults and Older Adults.

BACKGROUND:

In 2010 the World Health Organisation (WHO) produced the first set of global recommendations on the health benefits of physical activity in youth, adults and older adults. In 2018, the WHO launched a new Global Action Plan on Physical Activity 2018-2030 – More active people for a healthier world. The Resolution of the World Health Assembly (WHA12.6) recorded Member States request for the 2010 Global Recommendations to be updated based on the latest scientific evidence to provide support and guidance to countries in their efforts to implement the new global action plan at country level.

Noting that several national governments have recently led very similar scientific work across different age ranges, WHO will undertake a scoping exercise to review the availability of existing reviews of the relevant scientific evidence related to physical activity, sedentary behaviours, sleep and health outcomes in the age groups covering children and adolescents, adults and older adults. The resulting background discussion paper will inform the final decisions on the scope taken for the updating of the global recommendations.

The process of updating the recommendations will be led by WHO and follow established procedures set out by the WHO Guideline Development Committee and use the GRADE process.

WHO has recently completed similar work to develop the first global recommendations on physical activity, sedentary behaviours and sleep in children under five years of age and these are scheduled for publication by June 2019.

CALL FOR MEMEBERS OF THE GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

WHO is seeking expressions of interest from relevant technical scientific experts and other relevant stakeholders in the areas of guideline and policy development, policy implementation and monitoring in the fields of:

- physical activity
- sedentary behaviours
- sleep

across three age groups:

- children and adolescents
- adults
- older adults

Scientific experts wishing to nominate must have internationally recognised expertise and experience in a relevant field. Selected individuals will be invited to participate in a WHO Guideline Development Group (GDG) which will meet a minimum of twice over the next 12-18 months with
additional virtual communications undertaken as required. The GDG will comprise approximately 20 persons and the composition will aim to be balanced in gender and geographical representation, as well as scientific and professional expertise. The GDG will be required to establish the scope and methods, review scientific evidence and discuss the available evidence to formulate global recommendations, taking into consideration the quality of the evidence as well as the issues of feasibility, acceptability, resource and equity implications of recommendations.

The first in-person meeting of the GDG is proposed for 1-3 July 2019 at WHO HQ in Geneva, Switzerland. The dates and location of subsequent meetings are to be determined. Economy class travel and per diem to attend GDG meetings will be provided.

All meetings will be held in English and translation services will not be available.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

For those interested, please respond by email to letsbeactive@who.int providing clearly in the email or an attachment all the following details:

1. Full Name
2. Summary of education and professional qualifications
3. Current professional affiliation, including address and country
4. A precis of your scientific / professional expertise relevant to the focus of this work, clearly including the age group(s) to which your scientific or professional expertise applies (no more than 300 words is required)
5. A summary of any prior experience in participation or leadership of the development of similar guidelines at national, regional or global level. Please include details of the topic and the age groups to which the work was relevant (no more than 300 words is required)
6. Confirmation of your willingness to be available to attend GDG meetings over the next 18 months, including specifically your availability to attend, in person, the first GDG meeting which has been tentatively scheduled for 1-3 July 2019 (excluding travel days) in Geneva, Switzerland.

Invited experts will be required to complete a WHO Declaration of Interests (DOI) and the selection of the members for the GDG will be according to standard WHO requirements and procedures. These procedures include a period of public consultation and the posting of the names and curriculum vita of the proposed candidates on the relevant WHO website for a period of two weeks. Final approval of the membership is undertaken by the WHO Guideline Steering Group.

CLOSING DATE:

Please submit your expression of interest in participating in the guideline development group on or before 29 March 2019.

Notification of the final GDG aims to be completed by 15 May 2019.