Second Meeting of UN Funds, Programmes and Agencies on the Implementation of the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of NCDs (New York, 29 June 2012)
WHO convened the ‘Second Meeting of UN Funds, Programmes and Agencies on the Implementation of the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of NCDs' in New York on 29 June 2012. The meeting was held at Conference Room D at the United Nations in New York, and was attended by the Office of the President of the General Assembly, the Office of the Secretary-General, FAO, IAEA, ITU, UNAIDS, UNDESA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNICEF, UNRWA, WIPO, WTO and WHO. The President of the 66th Session of the General Assembly, His Excellency Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, provided opening remarks which were delivered by Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury, Senior Special Advisor to the President. The message from the President of the General Assembly is attached as Annex I. A list of opportunities to develop joint programmes at country level is attached as Annex II. A list of joint programmes under development at global level is attached as Annex III. The agenda is attached as Annex IV. A list of participants is attached as Annex V.

The objectives of the meeting were as follows:

− To promote a common understanding among the UN System of the burden of NCDs in developing countries and its socio-economic impact
− To exchange information on efforts already underway and those planned across the UN System to strengthen national capacities to address NCDs
− To identify opportunities for UN funds, programmes and agencies to strengthen national capacities for the prevention and control of NCDs
− To agree on a list of recommended actions that could be included in a coordinated common UN System-wide agenda on NCDs, including actions related to integrating NCDs into UNDAF processes and roll outs, developing joint programmes and meeting the mandate given by the Political Declaration on NCDs of the UN General Assembly.

The meeting took place in response to the Political Declaration of the General Assembly of the High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases. In this regard, the Political Declaration urges relevant UN funds, programmes and agencies to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to developing countries, especially the least developed countries, in the areas of NCD prevention and control (paragraph 62 of the Political Declaration).

1 Resolution A/RES/66/2 available at http://www.who.int/nmh/events/un_ncd_summit2011/political_declaration_en.pdf
4. The Political Declaration on NCDs calls on WHO to lead and exercise a coordinating role in relation to the work of other United Nations funds, programmes and agencies, development banks, and other regional and international organizations in addressing NCDs in a coordinated manner (paragraphs 13 and 51). WHO is also requested, in collaboration with UN agencies, to develop a comprehensive global monitoring framework to monitor trends and to assess progress made in the implementation of national strategies and plans on NCDs (paragraph 61) and to prepare recommendations for a set of global targets for the prevention and control of NCDs (paragraph 62) for consideration by Member States (through the Governing Bodies of WHO) before the end of 2012, building on the work already under way. WHO is also requested to collaborate closely with the Secretary-General, and in consultations with UN agencies, in articulating options for strengthening and facilitating multisectoral action for the prevention and control of NCDs through effective partnership (paragraph 64), for consideration by Member States (through the United Nations General Assembly) before the end of 2012.

5. Accordingly, WHO has established a number of work streams, including:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Work stream</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Raise the priority accorded to NCD in development work at global and national levels</td>
<td>United Nations General Assembly’s comprehensive review and assessment (in 2014) of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of NCDs</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Develop a global monitoring framework and targets for NCDs</td>
<td>To be completed during a formal meeting with Member States and UN Agencies between 5-7 November 2012 (Geneva)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Develop a global action plan for NCDs covering the period 2013-2020</td>
<td>To be considered by Member States during the World Health Assembly in May 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Articulate options for multisectoral action for the prevention and control of NCDs through effective partnership</td>
<td>Report of the UN Secretary-General to be considered by Member States before the end of 2012 during the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Scale-up technical assistance to developing countries to support national efforts</td>
<td>During the next 12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Exercise WHO’s leadership and coordination role in relation to UN agencies</td>
<td>During the next 12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Monitor progress achieved in realizing the commitments made in the Political Declaration on NCDs</td>
<td>Report of the UN Secretary-General to be considered by Member States before the end of 2013 during the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly</td>
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</table>

6. The meeting was chaired by Dr Jacob Kumaresan, Executive Director, WHO Office to the United Nations (New York).

7. This informal summary of the meeting provides an overview of the proposals put forward by the participants aimed at building an unified vision and a roadmap for concerted and coordinated UN System-wide action on NCDs. This summary does not
SHAPING THE UN SYSTEM AGENDA TO ADDRESS ONE OF THE MAJOR CHALLENGES FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

8. Participants acknowledged that the High-level Meeting on NCDs was a defining moment for development cooperation: it sets a new global agenda that advances inclusive social and economic development, environmental sustainability, and peace and security. It presents an historic opportunity to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world’s peoples of present and future generations.

9. While UN’s focus in the next 3 years must remain fully on the attainment of the MDGs, the UN has started to engage on the development of the post-2015 UN development agenda. The Rio+20 Declaration “The Future We Want” acknowledges that the global burden of NCDs constitutes one of the major challenges for development in the 21st century. The Rio+20 Declaration builds on the High-level Meeting on NCDs and the adoption of the Political Declaration on NCDs. Some participants noted that there is no trade-off between the acceleration of the MDGs during the next 3 years and starting to address NCDs. In fact, addressing NCDs will accelerate progress on the MDGs and keep the world solidly on track to meet poverty reduction targets focusing on inequalities.

10. Most premature deaths from NCDs are preventable by influencing public policies in sectors outside health, than by making changes in the health policy alone. Participants recognized that the Political Declaration on NCDs offered a paradigm shift in thinking about NCDs as an issue that cannot be addressed by one sector alone and focuses on cross-sectoral priority actions for government. Governments have recognized that quick gains against the NCD epidemic can be achieved through modest investments in interventions. While there are no blueprints and one size does not fit all, what is needed for widespread implementation of a core package of NCD “best buys” interventions is active engagement of sectors beyond health: a whole-of-government approach (involving all relevant government departments) and a whole-of-society approach (involving civil society and the private sector). Increasingly, governments in developing countries are making efforts to address NCDs, but while there is growing awareness of the challenge of epidemic proportions and its socio-economic developmental impacts, this has rarely translated into multisectoral action at scale due to a number of challenges to which the UN System should respond.
11. Participants highlighted that there is a real demand from developing countries for the UN System to take the lead in supporting national efforts to prevent and control NCDs at this juncture. Country demand for policy advice and sophisticated technical assistance to support governments in promoting multisectoral action against NCDs is very high. An analysis of 144 WHO country cooperation strategies that are jointly agreed with national authorities found that 136 included requests for support to address NCDs. Yet, current arrangements across the UN to meet individual country needs and support national efforts through bilateral and multilateral channels appear to be inadequate, hidden, underreported and uncoordinated. Going forward, a new and more holistic approach is needed to address this deficit and leverage the knowledge generated on successful approaches and lessons learned in responding to NCDs to support governments in realizing the future we want for all.

12. The UN has an opportunity to continue its intellectual leadership on ensuring that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world’s peoples and to position itself on NCDs within the multilateral setting. The UN has the opportunity to build and lead a strategic coalition of relevant UN agencies that can shape the NCD agenda and advocate for a bottom-up approach defined by national priorities and stakeholders. The UN also has the opportunity to ensure that the NCD agenda is guided by core UN norms, values and commitments, informed and shaped by the critical challenges of our time, including equity, and built on the momentum of and lessons learned from the MDGs.

13. Within the UN System, WHO has been leading efforts to support countries prevent and control NCDs. Flagship initiatives are under development with IAEA, ITU, UNAIDS and UNDP (Annex IV) and other UN agencies have expressed an interest to shape similar initiatives. In accordance with paragraph 13 of the Political Declaration on NCDs, WHO must exercise its leadership and coordination role in relation to the work of other UN Agencies in addressing NCDs. To strengthen this role, the CEB mechanism, including the UNDG platform, is uniquely placed to provide a common framework to support country action in support of achieving a global 25% reduction in premature mortality from NCDs in 2025 (the so-called “25 x 25” global NCD target adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2012), promote policy coherence across UN agencies and avoid policy fragmentation and incoherence with multilateral regimes and international standards:

- **A role for each UN Agency:** The Political Declaration on NCDs presents a highly focused agenda for strengthening international cooperation in support of national efforts to prevent and control NCDs. It specifically urges relevant UN agencies, development banks and other international organizations, to provide technical support to countries and to work together to advance the global NCD target.

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assistance and capacity building, in particular to the least developed countries. There is therefore an urgent need to find new pathways across the UN System both to support implementation and to ensure policy coherence and accountability among UN system agencies, funds and programmes in promoting global action against NCDs.

- **The beginning of a decade of change:** The Political Declaration on NCDs encourages the continued inclusion of NCDs in development cooperation agendas and initiatives. Accordingly, the first report of the UN Task Team on the post-2015 UN Development Agenda, “Realizing The Future We Want”\(^3\), identified NCDs as one of several priorities for social development and investments in people, a priority that needs to be continued to be included in discussions on the post-2015 UN development agenda. Access to sufficient nutritious food and promotion of healthy lifestyles with universal access to preventive health services will be essential to reduce the high incidence of NCDs in developing countries. This is also vital for inclusive social development and should be a critical element of the post-2015 vision. This will require transformative change at the operational, institutional and technical level at relevant UN agencies, funds and programmes today.

- **Opportunity for the UN to meet unmet global needs:** Participants expressed a sense of urgency for the UN to initiate steps within the UN System to launch a process that will mobilize UN entities in supporting national efforts to address NCDs in a coordinated manner.

**MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS**

14. Participants acknowledged that the UN System is uniquely positioned to ensure that our generation and future generations will benefit from the opportunities presented by the globally agreed “25 x 25” target, taking into account the commitments included in the Political Declaration on NCDs. The next 12 months will be vital for mobilizing the UN System to support developing countries in their national efforts to address NCDs and defining and agreeing on a common UN System-wide vision and road map. This would require UN agencies to make path-shaping investments to scale up UN capacity in this area, develop joint programmes, broaden the base of constituencies working together, and mobilize transformative multi-stakeholder coalitions with Member States, civil society, philanthropists, academia and the private sector across a broad range of NCD issues. This, in turn, calls for a broad approach across the UN at operational, institutional and technical levels.

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\(^3\) Available at [http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Poverty%20Reduction/Realizing%20the%20future%20we%20want.pdf](http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Poverty%20Reduction/Realizing%20the%20future%20we%20want.pdf)
Operational level: What UN agencies can do to support national efforts to address NCDs

15. UN Country Teams (UNCTs) are well positioned to advocate for the “25 x 25” voluntary global target, connect countries to knowledge and resources on NCDs, and help coordinate efforts of all actors. WHO is experienced in providing technical expertise and will continue to do so. The UNCTs can bring evidence on the links between NCDs, poverty, inequality and development, and the complementarities between these agendas up from regional and country level. Building on the Heads of UNDP and WHO joint letter recently addressed to UNCTs proposing to integrate NCDs within UNDAF design processes and implementation, joint commitments among the UNCTs could provide the strategic orientation and technical guidance to encourage contributions from the UN System to:

- Raise public awareness about the links between NCDs, inclusive social development, inclusive economic development, environmental sustainability, and peace and security
- Support governments in conducting a national capacity assessment of key challenges to address NCDs taking into account domestic circumstances
- Assist governments in integrating NCDs into health-planning processes and the national development agenda
- Integrate NCDs into UNDAF design processes and implementation
- Include NCDs in national consultations on the post-2015 UN development agenda
- Provide technical assistance to develop country-led national multisectoral plans and policies for the prevention and control of NCDs
- Support implementation of national multisectoral plans and policies for the prevention and control of NCDs
- Support the development of innovative approaches to financing
- Develop joint programmes at the national level in support of national efforts (Annex II).

Institutional level: What UN agencies can do to promote a high degree of policy coherence to combat NCDs and converge advocacy that inaction is no longer an option

16. Together, the UN has the opportunity to position itself as a key actor and advocate for a bottom-up approach defined by the national and local priorities and stakeholders supported by the UNCTs. The potential for having a more open and inclusive global dialogue on NCDs that ensures ownership beyond the health sector needs to be exploited to secure that the voices and the poor are factored in. UNDG members can:

- Integrate NCDs into relevant Governing Bodies’ discussions of relevant UN Agencies
- Integrate NCDs into existing global health initiatives (e.g. H4+, HHA, IHP+, REACH)
Include NCDs in global consultations on the post-2015 UN development agenda with academia, media, private sector, employers and trade unions, civil society, and decision makers, and in preparatory conferences/meetings by partners which discuss the post-2015 UN development agenda informed by UN

Articulate policy options to strengthening multisectoral NCD action through partnerships at global and national levels (SG’s report)

Establish mechanisms to promote joint (i) advocacy, awareness raising and accountability; (ii) voluntary innovative financing mechanisms; (iii) capacity building and technical support; (iv) product access and market shaping; (v) product development/innovation and (vi) coordination

Develop joint programmes at the global level (Annex III), building on continuing efforts.

Technical level: What UN agencies can do to harness and transfer knowledge and technical expertise on NCDs

17. Greater sharing of current scientific knowledge, available evidence and a review of international experience will be critical to induce the transformational changes needed to achieve a 25% reduction in premature mortality from NCDs by 2025. To ensure that the UN is fit for purpose in the 21st century to address NCDs and strengthen its global knowledge network and technical advisory capacities to support country-level transformations and upstream programme interventions, UN agencies can support WHO in the development of (i) a WHO Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs for 2013-2020 aimed at reducing premature mortality from NCDs by 25% in 2025, and (ii) a comprehensive global comprehensive global monitoring framework, including indicators, and a set of voluntary global targets for NCDs. Equally important, UN agencies can:

- Conduct, in a coordinated manner, a review of international experience in the prevention and control of NCDs and identify and disseminate lessons learned
- Recommend, based on a review of international experience, successful approaches for multisectoral action against NCDs
- Provide guidance for the development of national policy frameworks, taking into account the 2013-2020 Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs, as well as the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, the Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, the Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol, and the Set of Recommendations on the Marketing of Foods and Non-alcoholic Beverages to Children.

Operationalization: Steps which the UN System as a whole could take

18. To scale up UN capacity to support governments in their efforts to achieve the “25 x 25” global target and catalyze the commitments included in the Political
Declaration on NCDs, participants proposed a number of proposed next steps that the UN System could take over the next 12 months. This will require creating a coherent capacity for partnering across the UN System, coordinating system-wide efforts, and engaging with traditional and new constituencies which will catalyse commitments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harnessing the full power of collaboration on NCDs across the range of UN activities</th>
<th>Global</th>
<th>Regional</th>
<th>Country</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Establish coordination structures/platforms</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Enhance cooperation and sharing information</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Train UNCTs on integrating NCDs into UNDAF design processes and implementation</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Issue a guidance package on integrating NCDs into UNDAF processes and implementation</td>
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<tr>
<th>Enhance UN capacity to engage with host governments on NCDs</th>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Sharpen UNCT’s knowledge niche about the links between NCDs, inclusive social development, inclusive economic development, environmental sustainability, and peace and security</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Provide upstream policy advice, technical assistance and capacity-building</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Develop joint programmes across UN Country Teams to support national efforts to address NCDs</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Integrate NCDs into “Delivering as one” and UNDAF roll outs</td>
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<tr>
<th>Enhance UN capacity to mobilize development partners and new constituencies to support host governments in addressing NCDs and sharing burdens</th>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Strengthening joint advocacy, communicating clearly about what the UN does to support countries in addressing NCDs, how it does it, and what its interventions help achieve</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Strengthen collaborative arrangements through bilateral and multilateral channels, positioning the</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</table>
UN as a facilitator of South-South cooperation, building strategic relations with key emerging economies in support of south-south development cooperation, and developing effective partnerships with the World Bank and regional development banks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level:</th>
<th>Global</th>
<th>Regional</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UN as a facilitator of South-South cooperation, building strategic relations with key emerging economies in support of south-south development cooperation, and developing effective partnerships with the World Bank and regional development banks.</td>
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NEXT STEPS

19. Recommended steps identified by participants to include NCDs in discussions on UNDAF processes in 18 roll out countries in 2012 and 13 countries in 2013 include:

Short-term:

- WHO will develop a draft Guidance Note for UN Country Teams on ways to integrate NCDs into the UNDAF design processes and implementation. The draft note will be completed during the Third Meeting of UN Agencies on NCDs (October 2012).
- UNDP will publish a monograph on NCDs, poverty, social determinants of health and multisectoral action for NCDs (dates to be determined). WHO has been invited to review the publication and co-sponsor, as appropriate.
- WHO will started to train WRs on integrating NCDs into the UNDAF design processes and implementation in 18+13 UNDAF roll out countries. A first training course took place in EMRO (15-16 July 2012).
- WHO and UN agencies will identify one pilot country to conduct a joint capacity assessment on NCDs (= needs and response analyses for NCDs) and test and fine-tune the proposed division of labour among UN Agencies agreed upon during the meeting in December 2011.
- WHO and UNDP will develop a discussion note on how to monitor the implementation of WHO/UNDP’s joint letter on UNDAFs to UNCTs for discussion at a Third Meeting of UN Agencies on NCDs (October 2012).

Long-term:

- Include an NCD module in the leadership training module for UN Resident Coordinators (UN System Staff College/Turin)
- Include an NCD module in the UNDAF training modules for UN Country Teams (UN System Staff College/Turin)

20. Recommended steps identified to support WHO in completing the work on the development of a global monitoring framework and targets for NCDs during a formal meeting with Member States and UN agencies between 5-7 November 2012 include:
Short-term:
- UN agencies will attend the upcoming formal consultation in Geneva aimed at completing the work of developing a global monitoring framework, including indicators, and a set of voluntary global targets for the prevention and control of NCDs (Geneva, 5-7 November 2012).
- WHO will prepare a discussion note on how to support Member States in developing national targets and indicators based on national situations, taking into account the global framework and targets under development. This discussion note will be presented at the Third Meeting of UN Agencies on NCDs (October 2012) and roles and responsibilities of other UN Agencies will be discussed.

Long-term:
- Once the work on the global monitoring framework and targets has been completed, WHO and interested UN Agencies will formulate a joint global programme to support Member States in strengthening country-level surveillance and monitoring systems for NCDs.

21. Recommended steps identified to support WHO in completing the work on the development of a global action plan for NCDs covering the period 2013-2020:

Short-term:

Long-term:
- Once the 2013-2020 Action Plan is endorsed by the WHA in May 2013, UN Agencies will explore the possibilities to seeking endorsement by their respective governing bodies of recommended actions included in the 2013-2020 Action Plan concerning UN Agencies.

22. Recommended steps identified to support WHO in developing the report of the SG on options for strengthening multisectoral action for the prevention and control of NCDs through partnerships include:
Short-term:

- UN agencies agreed with the main recommendations included in WHA paper A65/7, i.e.
  - Structure should follow function: The functions and objectives of any given global partnership (including on NCDs) should influence its structural arrangements. Given the complexity of implementing NCD interventions, the building, strengthening and coordinating of results-oriented collaborative efforts, alliances and partnerships need to include five functions: (i) advocacy and awareness, (ii) coordination mechanism; (iii) financing and resource mobilization; (iv) capacity building and (v) product development/innovation and (vi) product access.
  - Hub-and-spoke model: Recognizing the multisectoral nature of addressing noncommunicable diseases, the need to involve myriad actors at the global level, the coordinated response that addressing NCDs requires, it seems that a single, stand-alone formal partnership may not cover all needs. Furthermore, taking into account the current political and financial realities, an already crowded health landscape, a need to reduce excessive fragmentation of activities, it appears unrealistic to establish a new global structure. A more feasible and effective approach could entail relying on a number of agile global partnerships, alliances and result-oriented collaborative arrangements. This could involve strengthening existing arrangements or establishing new ones and linking them together through a networked approach.

- UN agencies agreed with the suggested outline for WHO’s input to the SG’s report
- WHO will circulate a ‘zero draft’ of its contribution to the report to UN Agencies during the first week of August 2012, for review and inputs by UN Agencies
- WHO will submit its contribution to SG’s report on 27 August 2012 to the Office of the SG.

Long-term:

- It was suggested that, similar to tobacco and road safety, and in accordance with paragraph 13 of the Political Declaration on NCDs, WHO may wish to exercise its leadership and coordination role in promoting and monitoring global action against NCDs in relation to the work of other UN Agencies. To this end, an ‘UN Task Force on NCDs’ chaired by WHO could be established, as appropriate. The goal of the collaboration would be to facilitate international cooperation and to strengthen global and regional coordination among UN agencies to implement the Political Declaration on NCDs (similar
to the existing UN Road Safety Collaboration and building on the experience of the Ad Hoc UN Task Force on Tobacco).

23. Recommended steps identified to accelerate the development of global joint programmes include:

**Short-term:**
- WHO and ITU will complete the joint programme under development (for signing in October 2012).
- WHO and UNAIDS will have signed a Letter of Intent to promote the joint work on supporting Member States in adding NCDs components to existing HIV programmes, as appropriate (signed on 19 July 2012).
- WHO and IAEA will explore the possibilities of scaling up their ongoing joint partnership in the area of cancer control.
- WHO and UNDP will develop a joint programme on alcohol, HIV, gender-based violence and NCDs.
- WHO and WTO will finalize a study on intellectual property and access to affordable essential medicines (including for NCDs).

**Long-term:**
- WHO and UNFPA will develop a joint programme on (1) cervical cancer and (2) promoting healthy lifestyles among adolescents in 48 LDCs.

24. First thoughts explored on ways to provide sustained health financing through innovative financing mechanisms for NCDs (in accordance with paragraph 45.d of the Political Declaration on NCDs):

**Short-term:**
- WHO will establish a working group to estimate the financial requirements that may be needed to support developing countries in (i) conducting a national capacity assessment (situation and response analyses) and (ii) develop a multisectoral national NCD action plan.

**Long-term:**
- Explore the provision of adequate, predictable and sustained resources through voluntary innovative financing mechanisms (paragraph 45.d)

**NEXT MEETING**

25. The Third Meeting of UN Agencies on NCDs will be held in October 2012 (Note: tentatively planned for 12 October 2012 at WHO Headquarters in Geneva).
26. Participants also suggested to regularly share information in between meetings (e.g. once a month), thereby transforming the existing UN network into a UN Practice Community on NCDs.

26. In the long-term, participants suggested that:

- The WHO Director-General may wish to discuss the outcomes of the first and second meeting with UN agencies on NCDs at next UN Heads of Agencies Meeting, CEB and/or UNDG Principles meeting.
- Follow-up letter from each Head of Agency to their respective Country Representatives (building on joint WHO/UNDP letter on UNDAF)
- Build an advocacy plan (to ensure that the priority given to NCDs on the global development agenda remains high and that NCDs continue to be included in discussions on the post-2015 UN development Bank
- Engage with (1) the ASG for Partnerships and (2) the World Bank.
ANNEX I


(DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR ANWARUL CHOWDHURY, SENIOR SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT)

New York, 29 June 2012

Dr Oleg Chestnov, Assistant Director-General, Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health, WHO

Dr Kumaresan, WHO representative to the UN,

Colleagues of the UN system,

Ladies and gentlemen,

As the Senior Special Advisor to the President of the General Assembly, I have the honour to deliver this message from the President, His Excellency Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser.

At the outset, let me acknowledge with appreciation the leadership role being played by the World Health Organisation, (WHO), in effectively following up the implementation of the Political Declaration of the first-ever General Assembly High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, (NCDs), which I had the honour of convening on 19 September 2011.

In my message for the first meeting of UN Funds, Programmes and Agencies last December convened by WHO here in New York soon after the High-Level Meeting, I had said that, “the political declaration is a comprehensive document. It lays concrete foundations for forward movement. But the true value of our work lies in its effective implementation.”

In holding today’s second follow up meeting, the UN Funds, Programmes and Agencies, have shown their determination to live up to the task entrusted to them by the High Level Meeting to provide technical assistance and capacity-development in
NCD prevention and control to developing countries, especially the Least Developed Countries, (LDCs).

As I had said earlier, the political will expressed at the September Meeting on NCDs was a major breakthrough. Thanks to the engagement of Member States, the UN system, in particular WHO, and civil society, NCDs were given the well-deserved priority on the global development agenda. A mandate was established, and clear responsibilities were afforded.

The outcome of the High-Level Meeting reaffirmed a vision that goes beyond health, and recognized the impact non-communicable diseases have on our development efforts and our economies in general.

As I did at your first meeting in December, the main thrust of my message to you here is to work together to ensure that the commitments made on 19 September become a reality.

On your part, concerted and coordinated action across the UN-system is central to ensuring that the UN is effective in delivering as one.

Your main responsibility, I believe, is two fold: first, to support at the country level development of national capacity for addressing NCDs, and to strengthen their national NCD policies and plans; second, to assist the Secretary-General in submitting options to the General Assembly for strengthening and facilitating multisectoral action for the prevention and control of NCDs through effective partnership.

In this context, I am pleased to note that the Director-General of WHO and the Administrator of UNDP addressed a joint letter to the UN Country Teams in March this year, proposing that NCDs be integrated into the UN Development Assistance Framework, (UNDAF), formulation and implementation. They asked that initial attention be paid to the countries where UNDAF roll outs are scheduled for 2012-2013.

I was also very pleased to learn that the World Health Assembly, decided last May to adopt a global target of 25% reduction in premature mortality from NCDs by the year 2025.

The just concluded Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development recognized the important linkages between health and development. In its outcome document, it acknowledges that the global burden and threat of NCDs constitute major sustainable development challenges for the 21st century.
A number of significant global trends are contributing to the rise of NCDs in the developing world. Let me mention three of these: population ageing, rapid unplanned urbanisation, and the globalisation of unhealthy lifestyles.

With these challenges confronting us, I am sure you will join me in expressing the sense of urgency that is needed to realize the commitments included in the political declaration on NCDs to reduce these increasingly widening gaps among countries.

Progress in protecting people from exposure to risk factors for NCDs, combined with early detection and screening interventions, have improved survival rates for many NCDs in industrialized countries. But survival rates in developing countries still remain very low. Also, most care provided to people suffering from NCDs in developing countries is covered through out-of-pocket payments, leading to catastrophic medical expenditures for individuals, families and communities.

That is basically the reason behind the high priority that the political declaration on NCDs gives to improving access to prevention programmes, as well as treatment programmes in developing countries. It also recognizes the fact that prevention must be the cornerstone of the global response to NCDs.

Let me highlight three areas that should get our close attention as we engage in the implementation process of our decisions last September.

First, multi-sectoral action against NCDs involves national authorities engaging across government sectors to reduce the exposure of populations to the risk factors for NCDs. For us to achieve real health gains we must work on influencing the public in sectors other than the health sector, and beyond making changes in health policy alone. It is important at today’s gathering that you articulate how various UN entities can mobilise sectors like agriculture, communication, education, employment, environment, industry and trade, labour, transport and urban planning, towards a common agenda on NCDs. I look to you for the articulation of forward-looking contributions and commitments from UN Agencies in this regard.

Second, a more careful allocation and mobilization of resources will be essential for success. This includes supporting countries in exploring the opportunities for adequate, predictable and sustained resources, through domestic, bilateral, regional and multilateral channels, including traditional and innovative financing mechanisms. I look to you for new, creative ideas that are shaped by the critical challenges of our time.

Third, we need to build a strategic alliance of UN Agencies, Funds, and Programmes that can advance these ambitious goals on NCDs. This alliance is most needed at this time to shape the development architecture through broad mobilisation
and engagement of stakeholders from governments, civil society and the private sector. Again, I look to you for your valuable input for multi-sectoral action through effective partnerships.

Let today’s meeting pave the way for strengthening the formidable instrument of commitment that we have in the political declaration of the High Level Meeting and ensure that momentum is maintained for its success.

With the commitments and collaboration of the UN system and the excellent work of the WHO, your deliberations and engagement today have the potential of saving millions of lives and millions more being assisted with prompt and appropriate care.

I wish you a purposeful and productive meeting.

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ANNEX II

OPPORTUNITIES: DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT PROGRAMMES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

UNDP:
• Support non-health governmental departments in their efforts to engage in a multisectoral national whole-of-government approach to NCDs
• Support the Ministry of Planning to integrate NCDs in the development agenda of each Member State
• Support the Ministry of Planning to integrate NCDs explicitly into poverty-reduction strategies
• Support the National AIDS Commissions to integrate interventions to address the harmful use of alcohol into existing national HIV programmes

UNFPA:
• Support the Ministry of Health to integrate NCDs into existing reproductive health programmes, with a particular focus on (1) cervical cancer and (2) promoting healthy lifestyles among adolescents

UNICEF:
• Strengthen the capacities of the Ministry of Health to reduce risk factors for NCDs among children and adolescents
• Strengthen the capacities of the Ministry of Health to address malnutrition and childhood obesity

UNWOMEN:
• Support the Ministry of Women or Social Affairs to promote gender-based approaches for the prevention and control of NCDs

UNAIDS:
• Support the National AIDS Commissions to integrate NCD interventions into existing national HIV programmes
• Support the Ministry of Health to strengthen chronic care for HIV and NCDs (within the context of overall health system strengthening)
• Support the Ministry of Health to integrate HIV and NCD health system services, with a particular focus on primary care

IAEA:
• Support the Ministry of Health to strengthen treatment component within national cancer control strategies
• Conduct an ‘imPACT Review’ (a comprehensive assessment of the country’s cancer control capacity needs and strengths)
• Build model demonstration projects for radiation therapy treatment

**UNRWA:**
• Strengthen preventive measures, screening, treatment and care for Palestine refugees living with NCDs
• Improve access to affordable essential medicines for NCDs through partnerships with pharmaceutical companies

**WFP:**
• Prevent nutrition-related NCDs, including in crisis situations

**ITU:**
• Support the Ministry of Information to include NCDs in 'ICT and girls and women' initiatives
• Support the Ministry of Information to use mobilize phones to encourage healthy choices and warn people about tobacco

**FAO:**
• Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture to address food security, malnutrition and obesity
• Support the Ministry of Agriculture to align agricultural, trade and health policies

**WTO:**
• Support the Ministry of Trade to address trade policies and NCDs, including the full use of trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS) flexibilities.

**UN-HABITAT:**
• Support the Ministry of Housing to address NCDs in a context of rapid urbanization

**WHO:**
• Support the Ministry of Health to conduct a capacity assessment (situation and response analysis) on their capacity to (i) set national targets and indicators; (ii) implement the NCD “best buys” and (iii) develop a national multisectoral action plan
• Support the Ministry of Health to set national targets and indicators based on national circumstances, taking into account the global monitoring framework and voluntary global targets for NCDs (which will be completed in October/November 2012 at a formal meeting with Member States and UN Agencies).
• Support the Ministry of Health to develop a multisectoral action plan for the prevention and control of NCDs aimed at rolling out the NCD ‘best buys’ and
involving non-health governmental departments, as well as civil society and the private sector, as appropriate, while safeguarding public health from any potential conflict of interest.
ANNEX III

ONGOING: STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT PROGRAMMES AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

UNDP/WHO:
• Joint letter dated 26 March 2012 from UNDP Administrator and WHO Director-General to UNCTs proposing that UNCTs integrate, according to country context and priorities, NCDs into UNDAF design processes and implementation
• Support the National AIDS Commissions to integrate interventions to address the harmful use of alcohol into existing national HIV programmes (UNDP/WHO global joint programme under development)

UNAIDS/WHO:
• Letter of Agreement signed x July 2012 between the UNAIDS Executive Director and WHO Director-General to assist developing countries to successfully address their disease burden of HIV and NCDs by focusing on joint activities in the areas of (i) advocacy; (ii) technical cooperation and (iii) strategic information, monitoring and evaluation.

IAEA/WHO:
• Support the Ministries of Health to strengthen treatment components within national cancer control strategies

ITU/WHO:
• Support the Ministry of Information to use mobilize phones to encourage healthy choices and warn people about tobacco (ITU/WHO global joint programme to be launched in October 2012)
ANNEX IV

AGENDA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00-10:20</td>
<td>Welcome and opening remarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:20-10:30</td>
<td>Scope and purpose of the meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30-10:45</td>
<td>The burden of NCDs and the global response: a short recap and new</td>
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<td>perspectives</td>
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<td>10:45-11:45</td>
<td>Progress made in implementing the main recommendations from the</td>
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<td>first meeting with UN Agencies on NCDs (New York, 8 December 2011)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45-12:00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>12:00-13:00</td>
<td>Continued</td>
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<td>13:00-14:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00-15:00</td>
<td>Inputs into the UN Secretary-General’s report on options for strengthening</td>
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<td>and facilitating multisectoral action for the prevention and control of</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NCDs through effective partnerships</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00-16:00</td>
<td>Exploring the provision of adequate, predictable and sustained resources</td>
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<td>in support of national efforts to address noncommunicable diseases</td>
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<td>through domestic, bilateral, regional and multilateral channels,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>including traditional and voluntary innovative funding mechanisms</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:00-16:30</td>
<td>Next steps</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:30</td>
<td>Meeting adjourns</td>
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ANNEX V

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