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The World Health Organization (WHO) presents its compliments to Member States and Associate Members, and has the honour to inform them that WHO is organizing the First Global Meeting of National Noncommunicable Disease (NCD) Programme Directors and Managers from 15 to 17 February 2016 at WHO headquarters (EB Room), Geneva, Switzerland.

The meeting will be devoted to supporting national NCD programme directors and managers in their efforts to implement the four time-bound national commitments for 2015 and 2016 included in the 2014 UN Outcome Document on NCDs,\(^1\) taking into account the NCD-related targets included in the proposed Sustainable Development Goals\(^2\) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development.\(^3\)

The meeting will provide a key opportunity for national NCD programme directors and managers to exchange local insights and global perspectives on how to strengthen national NCD responses, in preparation for the third United Nations High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on NCDs in 2018. The active presence of United Nations agencies, nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO, WHO Collaborating Centres, as well as academic thought leaders on NCDs will be a concrete demonstration of the strategic nature of this meeting.

A concept note setting out the context, goal, objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting is available on the WHO website at the following link: [http://www.who.int/nmh/events/2016/ncd-focal-points/en/](http://www.who.int/nmh/events/2016/ncd-focal-points/en/). A provisional programme for the meeting will be posted on the same site.

Interpretation will be provided in all six official WHO languages.

It would be appreciated if the composition of delegations could be transmitted to ncdfocalpoint@who.int, as soon as possible.

To facilitate wider participation in the meeting, special consideration will be given to delegates from countries which are classified as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) by the United Nations. One national NCD director or manager per LDC will be eligible for economy airfare by the most direct route to Geneva. Requests for travel support should be sent by email to ncdfocalpoint@who.int no later than 31 December 2015 and include a copy of the letter from their Government including the name, affiliation and contact details of the delegate to be supported.

The World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States and Associate Members the assurance of its highest consideration.

GENEVA, 26 August 2015


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