

The Global Group of Heads of State and Government for the Prevention and Control of NCDs

Introduction

1. The Global Group of Heads of State and Government for the Prevention and Control of NCDs is an informal, voluntary, collaborative arrangement of interested Heads of State and Government from WHO Member States that will commence on April 2022 at the occasion of the International Strategic Dialogue on NCD and SDGs consisting of Heads of State and government. The Group will not constitute a legal entity.
2. The Group is founded on the commitment made by Heads of State and Government in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development that all Member States are encouraged to develop practicable ambitious national responses to the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹, which includes SDG target 3.4 on NCDs “By 2030, reduce by one-third premature mortality from NCDs through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being”.
3. The Group recognizes that the current level of progress and investment is insufficient to meet SDG targets 3.4 and 3.8 and that the world has yet to implement measures to reduce the risk of premature death and disability from NCDs².
4. The Group unites Heads of State and Government in a collective effort to *“Strengthen our commitment, as Heads of State and Government, to provide strategic leadership for the prevention and control of NCDs by promoting greater policy coherence and coordination through whole-of-government and health-in-all-policies approaches and by engaging stakeholders in an appropriate, coordinated, comprehensive and integrated bold `whole of society` action and response³.”*

Vision, mission, goals, and objectives

5. The scope of the Group includes the four main types of NCDs (cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancers, and chronic respiratory diseases) and their four shared modifiable risk factors (tobacco use, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, harmful use of alcohol), as well as mental health disorders and other mental health conditions, and indoor and outdoor air pollution⁴.
6. The vision of the Group is to reduce the risk of premature death from NCDs and promote mental health and well-being and attain SDG target 3.4 by 2030 for as many countries as possible.

¹ In accordance with paragraph 78 of resolution A/RES/70/1

² In accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution A/RES/73/2, as well as relevant paragraphs from resolution WHA74.4

³ Paragraph 17 of resolution A/RES/73/2

⁴ In accordance with paragraphs 31 and 37 of resolution A/RES/73/2

7. The Global Heads of State and Government Group builds on the three UN High-level political declarations for the prevention and control of NCDs and will galvanize momentum towards the second UN High-level meeting on UHC in 2023, and the fourth UN High-level meeting on the prevention and control of NCDs in 2025.
8. The mission of the Group is to facilitate political, social, and public health initiatives which promote the political choice by Heads of State and governments to intensify efforts to scale up national action to attain SDG target 3.4 by 2030 and contribute to SDG 3.8 by integrating NCDs into PHC and UHC and to also build resilience and Health Security.
9. The goal of the Group is to catalyse, at the global level, collective, concerted and coordinated action of interested Heads of State and Government on the **implementation roadmap** for the prevention and control of NCDs covering the period 2023-2030 to ensure that the majority of countries will achieve SDG 3.4 on NCDs by 2030.
10. The objective of the Group is to facilitate the exchange of information among interested Heads of State and Government on how to best make bold political choices and commit to the remaining years of intensive efforts to scale up national responses to attain SDG target 3.4.

Management of the Group

11. Any Head of State or Government of a WHO Member State who is actively engaged in the process of creating ownership at the national level to achieve SDG targets related to NCDs and mental health, and in the national application of WHO's technical norms and standards and knowledge- and evidence-based policy options for the prevention and control of NCDs, may join and participate in the Group.
12. Heads of State and Government can signal their intention of joining the Group by responding to the invitation to join and speak at the annual meeting.
13. When they join the Group, Heads of State and Government recognize the need to act politically and agree to the 5 commitments and actions of the NCD Compact that will contribute to the reduction in the risk of premature deaths from NCDs.
14. The Group is composed of Heads of State and Government of WHO Member States and will meet annually during the start of the General Debate at the United Nations General Assembly in September in New York. The work of the Group will be led by Chairpersons.
15. The purpose of the annual meeting of the Group is to discuss progress, successes, challenges, and lessons learnt in countries represented on the road to reaching SDG target 3.4 by 2030 based on the annual report from DG WHO to WHA and at the next High-Level meeting on NCDs and review and further develop the NCD Compact.
15. The first Chairperson is the President of Ghana by virtue of his convening role and as co-chair of the SDG Advocate Group of the UNSG. Consecutive Chairpersons will be selected by the participating Heads of State and Government at the consecutive annual meetings of the Group, each for a fixed 12-month period.
16. WHO shall provide the Secretariat functions for the Group.

17. The role of the Secretariat will be:
 - To provide technical, administrative and management support.
 - To provide the organizational arrangements for the meetings of the Group