



**Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the
Director-General of the World Health Organization on the progress
achieved in realizing the commitments made in the Political
Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on
the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs)**



**Informal note on the draft outline of the report of WHO on progress achieved
in realizing the commitments made in the UN Political Declaration on NCDs**

(NOT AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT OR FORMAL RECORD¹)

Geneva, 29 November 2013 – Today, WHO submitted a report on progress achieved in realizing the commitments made in the UN Political Declaration on NCDs to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and UNDESA. This informal note provides a brief outline of the report.

- The report was prepared by the World Health Organization pursuant to paragraph 65 of resolution A/RES/66/2, and sets out the progress achieved in realizing the commitments made in the UN Political Declaration on NCDs (September 2011), in preparation for a comprehensive review and assessment in 2014 of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of NCDs. The Secretary-General may transmit the report to the United Nations General Assembly and publish the report at www.un.org/ga.
- The report provides an overview of progress since the adoption of the Political Declaration on NCDs in:
 - summarizing the new dimensions to the challenge of NCDs.
 - describing the outcomes of the intergovernmental processes which were conducted to complete the work, through the governing bodies of WHO, on global assignments.
 - assessing the current capacity of countries to respond to NCDs.
 - highlighting the achievements in fostering international cooperation and coordination.
 - underscoring priority actions recommended for Member States in the lead-up to the UN General Assembly “NCD Review 2014”.
- The narrative of the report is as follows:
 - Heads of State and Government agreed in September 2011 that the global burden and threat of NCDs constitutes one of the major challenges for development in the 21st century and that business-as-usual was no longer an option (see tables 1 and 2).
 - Based on the outcomes of the High-level Meeting, Member States are expected to take action by setting national targets, developing national plans and implementing proven interventions to prevent, control and monitor NCDs (see table 3).
 - At the same time, WHO was requested to complete a number of global assignments that would further shape the global NCD agenda and accelerate implementation of national efforts (see table 4). There is now a global agenda in place based on 9 concrete targets for 2025 (see table 5), 25 outcome indicators, and 9 progress indicators (see table 6), organized around the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020 endorsed by the World Health Assembly in May 2013, as well as regional action plans. The global action plan comprises a set of actions which, when performed collectively by Member States, international partners and WHO, will achieve a global target of a 25% reduction in premature mortality from NCDs by 2025 and attain the commitments made in the Political Declaration. The implementation of national efforts will be supported by the UN Interagency Task Force on NCDs (see table 7).

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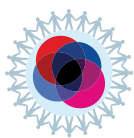
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A global coordination mechanism will facilitate engagement among Member States, UN organizations, other international organizations and non-State actors (see table 8).

- Member States have started to make some progress (see table 9), but it is still too early to declare success. Developing countries have difficulties in moving from commitments to action due to a lack of access to technical expertise. The full operationalization of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation need to run their course first. WHO will report regularly on progress achieved (see table 10).
- The outcome of the UN General Assembly Comprehensive Review on NCDs in 2014 will need to provide guidance on how to strengthen national capacities and accelerate national efforts to:
 - set national targets, taking into account the 9 global targets and regional ones, and develop national plans to attain these targets, taking into account the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020 and regional action plans.
 - implement proven interventions to reduce risk factors and enable health systems to respond.
 - measure results, taking into account the 25 outcome indicators and the 9 progress indicators, as well as regional indicators.
 - advance multisectoral action beyond the health sector (e.g. action across sectors on risk factors for NCDs).
 - promote international cooperation and coordination.

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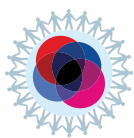


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Table 1 – Four types of NCDs are largely preventable by means of effective interventions that tack four shared modifiable risk factors

		Causative risk factors			
		Tobacco use	Unhealthy diets	Physical inactivity	Harmful use of alcohol
Non-communicable diseases	Heart disease and stroke	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Diabetes	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Cancer	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Chronic lung disease	✓			



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Table 2 - Estimated number of deaths from NCDs (2011)²

World Bank Group	Deaths from NCDs between the ages of 30 and 70
Low-income countries	1.2 million
Lower middle-income countries	5.3 million
Upper middle-income countries	5.3 million
High income countries	2.0 million
World	13.8 million

WHO Region	Deaths from NCDs between the ages of 30 and 70
Africa	1.3 million
Americas	1.7 million
Eastern Mediterranean	0.8 million
Europe	2.4 million
South-East Asia	4.2 million
Western Pacific	3.4 million
World	13.8 million

² WHO Global Health Observatory
http://www.who.int/healthinfo/global_burden_disease/estimates_regional/en/index.html



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Table 3: Priority actions recommended for Member States

Action area	Priority actions recommended for Member States
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Set national targets for 2025 based on national situations, taking into account the 9 global targets for NCDs – Develop national multisectoral policies and plans to achieve these targets in 2025, taking into account the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020 – Raise awareness about the national public health burden caused by NCDs and the relationship between NCDs, poverty and development – Integrate NCDs into health-planning processes and the national development agenda, including the UNDAF design processes and implementation – Prepare for the United Nations General Assembly NCD Review in 2014
Reduce exposure to risk factors for NCDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Implement very cost-effective and affordable interventions (included in Appendix 3 of the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020).
Enable health systems to respond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Implement very cost-effective and affordable interventions (included in Appendix 3 of the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020).
Measure results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Strengthen surveillance for NCDs, covering (i) monitoring of risk factors and determinants; (ii) outcomes (mortality and morbidity) and (iii) health system response, and integrate into the national health information systems, to ensure to ensure collection of data on the 25 indicators and progress toward the 9 voluntary global targets for NCDs; – Contribute information on trends in NCDs to WHO on progress made in the implementation of national action plans and on effectiveness of national policies and strategies, coordinating country reporting with global analyses.



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Table 4: Status of global assignments given to WHO

	Global assignment	Status	Endorsement
1	WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020	Completed	Endorsed by WHA66.
2	9 global targets for NCDs to be attained by 2025	Completed	Completed by Nov 2012 and endorsed by WHA66.
3	25 outcome indicators for NCDs to measure progress towards the attainment of the 9 global targets	Completed	Completed by Nov 2012 and endorsed by WHA66
4	9 action plan indicators to inform reporting on progress made in the process of implementing the WHO Global NCD action Plan 2013-2020	Completed	Completed by Nov 2013 for consideration by Member States at EB134 and WHA67.
5	ToR for a WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs	Pending	Functions were agreed in Nov 2013. Further consultations with Member States may take place in early 2014, with a view to finalize the ToR before WHA67.
6	UN Interagency Task Force on NCDs (and ToR)	Completed	Established in July 2013. ToR completed in Nov 2013, for consideration by Member States at EB134, WHA67 and ECOSOC (June 2014).
7	Report of the SG and WHO/DG on the progress made in realizing the commitments included in the UN Political Declaration on NCDs	Completed	Submitted on 29 November 2013, for onward transmittal to the UNGA, as appropriate.
8	WHO Country Capacity Assessment on NCDs 2013	Completed	Rolled out in 2013. Main results will be included in SG's progress report. Detailed results will be published in 2014.
9	WHO Global Status Report on NCDs (2014)	Ongoing	Under development. Will be completed in 2014.
10	Technical assistance to developing countries (as per WHO Programme Budgets)	Ongoing	As per WHO Programme Budgets 2012-2013 and 2014-2015. An One-WHO work plan 2014-2015 is being finalized with all three levels of the Organization, as part of WHO's operational planning process.



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Table 5: Nine global targets for the prevention and control of NCDs

- 25% relative reduction in the overall mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory diseases
- At least 10% relative reduction in the harmful use of alcohol³, as appropriate, within the national context
- A 10% relative reduction in prevalence of insufficient physical activity
- A 30% relative reduction in mean population intake of salt/sodium⁴
- A 30% relative reduction in prevalence of current tobacco use in persons aged 15+ years
- A 25% relative reduction in the prevalence of raised blood pressure or contain the prevalence of raised blood pressure, according to national circumstances
- Halt the rise in diabetes and obesity
- At least 50% of eligible people receive drug therapy and counseling (including glycaemic control) to prevent heart attacks and strokes
- An 80% availability of the affordable basic technologies and essential medicines, including generics, required to treat major NCDs diseases in both public and private facilities.

Table 6: Nine global action plan indicators

- Number of countries with at least one operational multisectoral national policy, strategy or action plan that integrates several NCDs and shared risk factors in conformity with the global and regional NCD action plans 2013–2020.
- Number of countries that have operational NCD unit(s)/branch(es)/department(s) within the Ministry of Health, or equivalent.
- Number of countries with an operational policy, strategy or action plan, to reduce the harmful use of alcohol, as appropriate, within the national context.
- Number of countries with an operational policy, strategy or action plan to reduce physical inactivity and/or promote physical activity.
- Number of countries with an operational policy, strategy or action plan, in line with the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, to reduce the burden of tobacco use.
- Number of countries with an operational policy, strategy or action plan to reduce unhealthy diet and/or promote healthy diets.
- Number of countries that have evidence-based national guidelines/protocols/standards for the management of major NCDs through a primary care approach, recognized/approved by government or competent authorities.
- Number of countries that have an operational national policy and plan on NCD-related research including community-based research and evaluation of the impact of interventions and policies.
- Number of countries with NCD surveillance and monitoring systems in place to enable reporting against the nine voluntary global NCD disease targets.

³ In WHO's global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol, the concept of the harmful use of alcohol encompasses the drinking that causes detrimental health and social consequences for the drinker, the people around the drinker and society at large, as well as the patterns of drinking that are associated with increased risk of adverse health outcomes.

⁴ WHO's recommendation is less than 5 grams of salt or 2 grams of sodium per person per day.

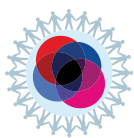


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Table 7: Objectives of the UN Interagency Task Force on NCDs

<ul style="list-style-type: none">– To enhance and coordinate systematic support to Member States, upon request, at the national level, in efforts to support responses to prevent and control NCDs and mitigate their impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– To facilitate systematic and timely information exchange among entities of the UN system and intergovernmental organizations about existing and planned strategies, programmes and activities to prevent and control NCDs and mitigate their impacts, at global, regional and national levels, including through the establishment of a virtual practice community for Members of the Task Force, with updates regularly circulated to subscribers, and the preparation and regular updating of an inventory of UN system activities on the prevention and control of NCDs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– To facilitate information on available resources to support national efforts to prevent and control NCDs and mitigate their impacts, and to undertake resource mobilization for the implementation of agreed activities, including for joint programmes in accordance with guidelines of the UN Development Group.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– To strengthen advocacy in order to raise the priority accorded to the prevention and control of NCDs on the international development agenda, including the post-2015 development agenda, and sustain the interest of Heads of State and Government in realizing their commitments through statements, reports and participation in panels by high-level United Nations officials.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– To incorporate the work of the UN Ad Hoc Interagency Task Force on Tobacco Control, including by utilizing the matrix of work of the Members of the UN Task Force on the implementation of the WHO FCTC, and to ensure that tobacco control continues to be duly addressed and prioritized in the new task force mandate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">– To strengthen international cooperation in support of national, regional and global plans for the prevention and control of NCDs, inter alia, through the exchange of best practices in the areas of health promotion, legislation, regulation and health systems strengthening, training of health personnel, development of appropriate health-care infrastructure and diagnostics, and by promoting the development and dissemination of appropriate, affordable and sustainable transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and the production of affordable, safe, effective and quality medicines and vaccines.



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Table 8: Functions of the global coordination mechanism on NCDs

– Advocating for and raising awareness on the urgency of implementing the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020; mainstreaming the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases in the international development agenda; and giving due consideration to the prevention and control of NCDs in discussions on the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda.
– Disseminating knowledge and sharing information based on scientific evidence and/or best practices regarding the implementation of the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020, including health promotion, prevention, control, monitoring and surveillance of NCDs.
– Provide a forum to identify barriers and share innovative solutions and actions for the implementation of the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020.
– Advance multisectoral action by identifying and promoting sustained actions across sectors that can contribute to and support the implementation of the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020.
– Identifying and sharing information on existing and potential sources of finance and cooperation mechanisms at the local, national, regional and global levels for the implementation of the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020.



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Table 9: Main outcomes of the WHO National Capacity Assessment Survey on NCDs conducted among Member States (2013 compared to 2010)

	2013	2010
Countries with a unit, branch or department in a Ministry of Health with a responsibility for NCDs	95%	89%
Countries with integrated national policies or plans on NCDs	78%	65%
Countries with integrated operational policies or plans on NCDs with a dedicated budget	50%	32%
Countries with cancer registries	81%	80%
Countries which have conducted recent risk factor surveys	63%	30%
Countries providing primary prevention and health promotion	95%	85%
Countries providing risk factor detection	88%	77%
Countries providing risk factors and disease management	85%	82%



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Table 10 – Sequencing of reports and evaluations between 2013 and 2026 based on existing resolutions

	United Nations General Assembly ⁵	ECOSOC ⁶	World Health Assembly ⁷			Evaluation ⁸	Advocacy ⁹
	Report on progress achieved in realizing the commitments included in the UN Political Declaration on NCDs	Report on the implementation of resolution E/RES/2013/12	Reports on progress made in implementing the WHO NCD Action Plan 2013-2020	Reports on progress made in attaining the 9 voluntary global targets	Appendix 3 of the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020	Independent evaluation of the implementation of the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020	WHO global status reports on NCDs
2013							
2014	X	X					X
2015							
2016			X	X	X		X
2017						X	
2018			X				
2019							
2020						X	
2021			X	X			X
2022							
2023							
2024							
2025							
2026				X			

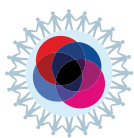
⁵ Resolution A/RES/66/2

⁶ Resolution E/RES/2013/12

⁷ Resolution WHA66.10

⁸ Resolution WHA66.10

⁹ Resolution WHA61.14 and WHA66.10



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