



**Seventeenth Meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency
Task Force on the Prevention and Control of
Non-communicable Diseases**

6-8 December 2021

Seventeenth meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, 6-8 December 2021

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This publication contains the collective views of the Seventeenth meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and does not necessarily represent the decisions or policies of WHO.

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A. OBJECTIVES AND PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

1. The Seventeenth Meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases was held by videoconference on 6-8 December 2021. Twenty-four Task Force members participated.¹ The World Health Organization and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) co-chaired the meeting. The agenda is Annex 1 (which provides links to the background papers),² and the list of participants is Annex 2.

2. The main objectives of the meeting were (i) to review progress since the Sixteenth Task Force Meeting (16-18 March 2021); (ii) to update on a range of joint programmes and other workstreams, to identify opportunities for further interagency collaboration; (iii) to review progress with regard to the Task Force Strategy 2019-2021 and to discuss its successor; (iv) to discuss opportunities to build the case at country level for Global Fund applications to include NCDs; and (v) to discuss opportunities to scale up support to UN Country Teams.

B. REVIEW OF THE SUMMARY OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING, UPDATE ON GLOBAL EVENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS, AND UPDATES FROM MEMBERS

3. Members reviewed the summary of the Sixteenth Task Force Meeting and noted that progress has been made across the majority of agreed actions.

4. The Task Force received an update from WHO on global events and assignments since the Sixteenth Meeting.

5. IAEA, UNAIDS, UNDP, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF and the World Bank updated members on their current work in the area of NCDs and mental health.

Actions

B1. Agencies that have yet to provide responses to Actions K2 and K3 to do so as soon as possible in order for Task Force Secretariat to collate results and recommend next steps: (i) Task Force focal points to ensure that discussions and decisions from Task Force meeting are reported back to their senior management in order to build even greater support for the work of the Task Force (1-2 sentence comment requested); (ii) Task Force Secretariat to support Members include NCDs and mental health in governing body and senior management discussions as and when appropriate (1-2 sentence observation requested).

B2. Continue to work with the UN Development Coordination Office and directly with countries to identify opportunities (and build capacity) to include NCDs and mental health into country level UN planning guidance. (Task Force Secretariat and UNDP)

¹ African Development Bank (AfDB), Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), International Development Law Organization (IDLO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations Nutrition (UN Nutrition), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Food Programme (WFP), WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Secretariat (WHO FCTC), World Bank, World Trade Organization (WTO), World Health Organization (WHO). The World Custom Organization (WCO) participated in quality of observer.

² Available to Task Force members.

B3. Members to provide a further update on their activities at the Eighteenth Meeting of the Task Force. (All)

C. TOBACCO CONTROL

6. The Convention Secretariat and WHO provided an update on progress of tobacco control-related activities, including the Alternative Livelihood for Tobacco Farmers initiative and the Access Initiative for Quitting Tobacco (AIQT). Task Force members reviewed progress on the Model policy for agencies of the United Nations system on preventing tobacco industry interference³ and discussed next steps.

7. The Convention Secretariat updated Task Force members on decisions agreed at the Ninth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) and the Second Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP 2) to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, recognizing that actions to achieve SDG Targets 3.a and 3.4 are integral components of national recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

8. WHO provided an update on workstreams related to tobacco free schools and tobacco and child development, and World No Tobacco Day 2022 which will have as its theme the environmental impact of tobacco.

Actions

COP9 and MOP2

C1. Call on the members of the Task Force to support Parties in implementation of the COP9 Declaration on WHO FCTC and recovery from COVID-19 pandemic and include actions to achieve Target 3.a on SDGs on implementation of WHO FCTC and SDG Target 3.4 on NCDs as an integral component of national recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, including in national SDG plans. (Convention Secretariat, WHO, UNDP, World Bank and all relevant members)

C2. Establish a workstream under the Tobacco TWG on Implementation of the Protocol: (i) invite interested members to join the workstream (including but not limited to WCO, UNODC, WTO, OECD, World Bank, WHO); and (ii) map out expertise of members and agree collaborative action. (Tobacco TWG)

C3. Task Force members that are not observers to MOP and COP to start the process of applying for observer status and all observers to attend COP10 and MOP3 (13-25 November 2023, Panama). (All Task Force Members)

Model policy

C4. Ensure that tobacco industry interference in the UN system remains on the agenda of the Task Force, including regular dialogue with the UN Global Compact Executive Management Team. (Convention Secretariat, Task Force Secretariat, WHO)

Smoke-free campuses

C5. Follow up on the WHO Director-General's letter to Heads of UN agencies on smoke-free campuses: Task Force Secretariat to support WHO Senior Leadership with follow up letters to senior level administrators to encourage them to make their campuses smoke-free and follow up with

³ <https://www.who.int/ncds/un-task-force/events/model-policy-agencies-united-nations1.pdf>

their UN agency counterparts to identify bottlenecks and then work with WHO and the Convention Secretariat on ways of unblocking them.

Tobacco free schools

C6. Revise tobacco-free school guide according to feedback received from four pilot countries. Scale up implementation of the Tobacco-free schools guide. (Tobacco thematic group)

Alternative livelihood for tobacco farmers

C7. Draft toolkit on alternative livelihood for tobacco farmers to be shared with all agencies in the thematic group in early 2022 for feedback and consolidation. Once finalized, toolkit to be piloted in a few countries. (Tobacco thematic group)

D. UPDATE ON THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS

9. Updates were received from UN Nutrition on behalf of the TWG Nutrition and NCDs and from the TWG NCDs and the environment.

10. UN Nutrition reported progress on the work of the TWG and of the Community of Practice on Nutrition, Human Rights and Law, and provided an updates on the Food Systems Summit and the Nutrition for Growth Summit. NCDs have been increasingly mainstreamed into UN Nutrition work in the effort to end all forms of malnutrition: Fiji Multi-country Office is being supported to strengthen nutrition as one key programmatic area in the development of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, and modeling of nutrition-related interventions is ongoing to develop the methodology for nutrition standalone investment cases.

11. The NCDs and the environment TWG/Health and Environment Climate Change Coalition NCD group provided an update on the outcomes of the COP 26. Opportunities for greater work around NCDs and climate change in Small Island Developing States were highlighted.

Actions

Nutrition

D1. Continue with country work: (i) development of the nutrition investment case; (ii) support Fiji MCO to integrate nutrition as One UN in UNSDCF and collate lessons learned for use in other countries; (iii) identify 2-3 countries which have made commitments to address the double burden with a rights-based approach; and (iv) develop case studies to showcase the rights-based approach to sustainable healthy diets and nutrition. (UN Nutrition and the Nutrition TWG)

D2. Present the work of the Nutrition, Human Rights and Law Community of Practice at the Eighteenth Meeting of the Task Force along with key messages that can be used by all Task Force members. (UN Nutrition and the Nutrition TWG)

D3. Report on progress of the healthy diets coalition to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Task Force. (UN Nutrition and the Nutrition TWG)

D4. Start defining key messages for COP 27 in Egypt in November 2022. (UN Nutrition/Nutrition TWG and HECCC/Environmental TWG)

D5. NCDs and the environment TWG/Health and Environment Climate Change Coalition NCD group to review its programme of work to align across relevant recommendations in the COP26 Special Report on Climate Change and Health - The Health Argument for Climate Action.⁴

E. UPDATE ON JOINT PROGRAMMES, INITIATIVES AND COLLABORATIONS

12. Updates were received from the following joint programmes, initiatives and collaborations that Task Force members are working on: (i) NCD 2030; (ii) SAFER; (iii) cervical cancer; (iv) Global RECAP; and (v) Be He@lthy Be Mobile. Progress on these and other joint programmes and initiatives had been included in the 2021 report to ECOSOC. It was agreed that an update on FCTC2030 would be presented at the Eighteenth Task Force Meeting.

Actions

NCD 2030

E1. WHO and UNDP to prepare for the next phase for NCD 2030. Other Task Force Members that wish to join forces provide expressions of interest to WHO and UNDP, with a commitment to identify resources to support future activities.

SAFER

E2. SAFER Secretariat to provide a briefing to interested Task Force members to discuss potential entry points for a small number of Task Force members to support action required to take forward recommendations coming out of SAFER country missions.

E3. All joint programmes, initiatives and collaborations to report back at the Eighteenth Meeting of the Task Force.

F. NEW TASK FORCE STRATEGY

13. The Task Force Secretariat presented the draft successor to the Task Force Strategy 2019-2021, building on the experience of the 2019-2021 strategy, the findings of the Mid-Point Evaluation of the NCD Global Action Plan 2013-2030, and recent ECOSOC resolutions on the work of the Task Force.

14. Task Force Members welcome the draft, agreeing that the priorities of the 2019-2021 strategy were still relevant and should be maintained. Participants agreed that the new strategy should again be for 3 years (2022-2024), with flexibility to be updated, if and when required, in order to reflect new or emerging global policies and/or resolutions.

Actions

F1. Task Force Secretariat to update the draft strategy taking into account comments received during the meeting.

F2. Updated draft to be circulated for final inputs from Task Force members. Comments to be received by Task Force Secretariat by 31 December 2021, to allow a final version to be circulated for final approval in order for electronic publication at the end of January 2022.

⁴ COP26 special report on climate change and health: the health argument for climate action. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2021. <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1378263/retrieve>

G. NCD AND MENTAL HEALTH MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUND

15. The MPTF Secretariat provided an overview of the NCD and Mental Health MPTF since the last meeting, including: (i) Kenya, Thailand and Uruguay joining as Founding Strategic Partners; (ii) a Circular Letter issued by WHO to all Member States indicating that the MPTF had been established; (iii) outcomes of the First Steering Committee meeting held in November; (iv) ongoing engagement with DAC and other donors; and (v) ongoing development of operational guidance and a resource mobilization strategy.

Actions

G1. Further update to be provided at the Eighteenth Meeting of the Task Force. (MPTF Secretariat, WHO, UNDP and UNICEF)

H. UN COUNTRY TEAM LANDSCAPE

16. The session provided Members with the opportunity to understand better the current environment that UN Resident Coordinators and UN country teams are operating in, especially during the pandemic – and the role of NCDs and mental health in their strategic thinking, including ways to integrate health/NCD objectives in synergy with other potentially competing themes. Resident Coordinators from India and Zimbabwe shared recent experiences as well as challenges and opportunities for interagency action on NCDs and mental health at country level, including developing, resourcing and implementing UN development cooperation frameworks.

Actions

H1. Task Force to work with interested UN Resident Coordinators, their offices and UNCTs to have an initial discussion with selected UNRCs on briefings and communication on the NCD-related SDGs that they, their offices and UNRCs would find helpful, building on existing Task Force material. (Task Force Secretariats with the support of Task Force Members)

I. ADVOCATING AT COUNTRY LEVEL FOR GLOBAL FUND APPLICATIONS TO INCLUDE NCDs

19. The Global Fund, UNDP and the Task Force Secretariat updated members on ongoing work to build the case for advocating for Global Fund applications to include NCDs and mental health at the country level following the decision of the last Task Force meeting. The briefing emphasized that this was not about advocating for an expansion in the mandate of the Global Fund, rather ensuring that countries were aware of the Global Fund's policy on co-infections and co-morbidities.⁵

20. Members highlighted the importance of addressing co-morbidities, by advocating for integrative approaches at the country level, and by leveraging the Global Fund's commitment to resilient and sustainable systems for health and strengthening primary healthcare. Members emphasized the need to model joint economic benefits of interventions addressing co-morbidities, in

⁵ GF/B33/DP08. Policy on coinfection and comorbidities. 2015. <https://www.theglobalfund.org/board-decisions/b33-dp08/>

order to build further the case for countries utilizing the co-infections and co-morbidities policy. In addition, the need to create demand from community and civil society partner was stressed.

Actions

I1. Continue to develop a set of activities to advocate and build the case *at country level* for Global Fund applications to include NCDs and mental health. (UN NCD Task Force Global Fund NCD and Mental Health Task Team: Global Fund, WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, FCTC Secretariat, and Task Force Secretariat)

J. 2022 PLANNING: REPORT TO ECOSOC AND TASK FORCE AWARDS

21. The Task Force Secretariat provided the timetable for submitting the Task Force's annual report to ECOSOC in 2022. A consolidated draft will be shared with Members for inputs during March 2022, ahead of submission to UN DESA.

22. Members welcomed the 2021 Awards process and members agreed that there should be a further call for the Awards in 2022. The call should once again encourage nominations that highlight action taken by youth groups. Task Force members are encouraged to join the selection committee.

Actions

J1. 2022 Task Force Awards to be taken forward in line with the approach used for 2021, including encouraging nominations from groups working with youth groups. Members to inform the Secretariat of other areas that they would wish to see emphasized in the call for nominations. (Task Force Secretariat, All)

K. DATES AND VENUES FOR FUTURE TASK FORCE MEETINGS

23. It was agreed that the 18th meeting would be held in Spring 2022.

Actions

K1. Eighteenth Meeting of the Task Force to be held mid- end-March. Members to inform the Task Force Secretariat of competing events in order to identify suitable dates for the meeting. (All)

Annex 1. Agenda

Co-Moderators

Werner Obermeyer, Director, WHO Office at the United Nations, New York

Petra ten Hoope-Bender, Technical Advisor, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, UNFPA Office of Geneva

DAY 1: Monday 6 December 2021

Time	Agenda item	Presenters/Leads	Background papers
Agenda item 1 14:30 – 14:50	Welcome and introductions	Werner Obermeyer (WHO) Petra ten Hoope-Bender (UNFPA) Svetlana Akselrod (WHO)	01.1 List of participants
Agenda item 2 14:50 – 15:20	Review of actions agreed at the 16th meeting	Task Force Secretariat	02.1 Review of actions from 16th Meeting
Agenda item 3 15:20 – 16:00	Update on global events and assignments	Guy Fones (WHO)	03.1 Presentation on global events
Agenda item 4 16:00 – 18:00	Updates on thematic working groups 1. Tobacco control, including an update on FCTC COP9 and MOP2 2. Nutrition 3. NCDs and the environment	1. Vinayak Prasad (WHO) and Guangyuan Liu (Convention Secretariat) 2. Stineke Oenema (UN Nutrition) 3. Alexandra Egorova (WHO)	04.1 COP9 Declaration on the COVID-19 pandemic 04.2 MOP2 Decision on Financial Resources and Mechanism of Assistance 04.3 MOP2 Decision on Assistance and Cooperation 04.4 MOP2 Decision on Tracking and Tracing Systems 04.5 Presentation COP 9 and MOP 2 04.6 Presentation AIQT 04.7 Presentation UN Nutrition 04.8 COP 26 presentation 04.9 Example letter for smoke-free UN

DAY 2: Tuesday 7 December 2021

Time	Agenda item	Presenters/Leads	Background papers
Agenda item 5 14:30 – 15:00	New Task Force strategy	Task Force Secretariat	05.1 Draft strategy
Agenda item 6 15:00 – 16:00	NCD and Mental Health Multi-Partner Trust Fund	Mamka Anyona and Linda Merieau (MPTF Secretariat, WHO) and WHO, UNDP and UNICEF Core Team	06.1 Memorandum of Understanding 06.2 Terms of Reference 06.3 Brochure 06.4 Presentation MPTF
Agenda item 7 16:00 – 17:00	Updates on joint programmes, initiatives and collaborations across the UN system 1. NCD 2030 2. SAFER 3. Cervical cancer 4. Global Regulatory and Fiscal Capacity Building Programme 5. Be He@lthy, Be Mobile	1. Alexey Kulikov (Task Force Secretariat), Daniel Grafton (UNDP) 2. Sarah Roache (WHO) 3. Ani Shkarishvili (UNAIDS) 4. Maria Chiara Campisi (IDLO), Ben McGrady (WHO) 5. Simona Pestina (ITU)	07.1 Presentation NCD 2030 07.2 Presentation SAFER 07.3 Presentation cervical cancer 07.4 Presentation RECAP 07.5 Presentation BHBM
Agenda item 8 17:00 – 18:00	Updates from Members		08.1 MoU between WHO and UN-HABITAT

DAY 3: Wednesday 8 December 2021

Time	Agenda item	Presenters/Leads	Background papers
Agenda item 9 14:30 – 15:30	UN country team landscape	Shombi Sharp, Resident Coordinator, India Alex Gasasira, Resident Coordinator, Zimbabwe Session facilitated by Dudley Tarlton (UNDP)	
Agenda item 10 15:30 – 16:15	Advocating and building the case at country level for Global Fund applications to include NCDs	Emily Roberts and Johanna Jung (UNDP), Michael Borowitz (Global Fund), Giuseppe Troisi (Task Force Secretariat)	10.1 Presentation on GFATM advocacy paper
Agenda item 11 16:15 – 16:30	2022 planning: report to ECOSOC and Task Force Awards	Task Force Secretariat	11.1 Presentation 2022 planning
Agenda item 12 16:30 – 16:45	Dates and venues for future Task Force meetings	Task Force Secretariat	
Agenda item 13 16:45 – 17:45	Review of action points	Task Force Secretariat	

Annex 2. List of Participants

SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE UN TASK FORCE ON THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NCDs 6, 7 AND 8 DECEMBER 2021 VIRTUAL MEETING

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