



***Ninth* Meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency
Task Force on the Prevention and Control of
Noncommunicable Diseases**

Geneva, 9-10 November 2017

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Printed in English

INFORMAL SUMMARY OF THE NINTH MEETING

OBJECTIVES, PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND REVIEW OF THE SUMMARY OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

1. The Ninth Meeting of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (the Task Force) was held at WHO, Geneva from 9-10 November 2017. The following agencies joined: GFATM, IAEA, IARC, ICRC, IDLO, ILO, OECD, UNAIDS, OHCHR, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNODC, UNHCR, UNSCN, UNU, WFP, WIPO, WHO and the WHO FCTC Secretariat. The list of participants and agenda are in Annexes 1 and 2.
2. The main objective of the Meeting was to review progress of the Task Force to date and discuss the future strategic directions and financing.
3. Members reviewed the summary of the Eighth Task Force Meeting (21-23 February 2017) and while noting that many areas of action had progressed, agreed that future summaries would benefit from a reduction in the number of action points.

A. GLOBAL EVENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

4. Members were provided with an update on global events and assignments since the Eighth Meeting in line with previous meetings. The timeline and activities between now and the Third High-level meeting on NCDs was described. Task Force members welcomed the establishment of the new Commission on NCDs, highlighting the need for the Task Force and its Secretariat to work closely with the Commission.

B. GLOBAL JOINT MISSIONS, PROGRAMMES AND THEMATIC GROUPS: PROGRESS, UPDATES AND NEXT STEPS

5. The Task Force received updates on joint programming missions and their follow up. The major obstacle to progress is funding to catalyse follow up action. It was agreed that even greater attempts to raise funds for follow up action was an urgent priority at global, region and country levels. The Task Force welcomed the inclusion of development partners as part of joint mission, noting that the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention would be participating in the upcoming mission to Ethiopia. It was noted that missions have not yet included capacity around legislation with respect to NCDs. Task Force members encouraged greater efforts in this area, highlighting the recent Montevideo Roadmap 2018-2030 on NCDs as a Sustainable Development Priority.¹ The Task Force Secretariat provided an update of recent meetings in Buenos Aires between the Government of Argentina, UN agencies and the World Bank to discuss progress on the World Bank Argentina NCD loan and plans to disseminate lessons learnt to other countries.

¹ Paragraph 21 says, 'We call upon the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs and its Members, within their mandates, to scale up and broaden intersectoral work integrating expertise relevant to public health-related legal issues into NCD country support, including by providing evidence, technical advice, and case studies relevant to legal challenges. We encourage the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs to explore the relationship between NCDs and the law to improve support to Member States in this area and to raise the priority it gives to this work.'

6. Several Task Force members indicated that they are unable, for varying reasons, to participate in country missions. The possibility of a WebEx session during joint missions for agencies that are not able to participate on the ground was raised. This could be done as part of a meeting with resident UN agencies. It was agreed that effective follow up on mission recommendations requires each participating agency to review and prioritise action at global, regional and country level. Members of the Task Force welcomed the experience of engaging with civil society and the private sector on the joint missions and encouraged greater follow up with these groups, including exploring opportunities for resource mobilisation.

7. The Task Force received updates from the following programmes: (i) Be He@lthy, Be Mobile (WHO and ITU); (ii) cervical cancer (7 UN agencies), ; (iii) the joint cancer programme (IAEA, IARC and WHO); (iv) NCD governance (UNDP and WHO); and (v) FCTC 2030 (Convention Secretariat, WHO FCTC). The Task Force welcomed recent funding from the Russian Federation for the governance programme, the support of the UK for FCTC2030, interest from new partners for Be He@lthy, Be Mobile, and recent interest from donors to host a conference to support the cervical cancer programme. The MoU and joint programme document for the joint cancer programme is still not finalised and the Task Force agreed that there was insufficient progress for this programme to remain as part of the Task Force activities. If and when there is progress, Task Force members would be happy to include this in future discussions.

8. Updates were received from the following thematic working groups (TWG): (i) NCDs and the environment; (ii) Communication; (iii) Mental Health; (iv) Harmful use of alcohol, communicable disease and violence; (v) NCDs and law; (vi) Human Rights; (vii) nutrition; and (viii) surveillance. Task Force members agreed that the existing Health, Environment and Climate Change Coalition serves as the primary platform to support the Task Force's activities on the environment. It was noted that the alcohol group was close to finalising a proposal for joint programme and were now looking for a forum to launch the programme. The work plan for the Nutrition TWG to support the Ending Childhood Obesity Implementation Plan was agreed, with a focus on the school environment. IDLO and WHO were actively engaged with donors on a proposal to build capacity for regulatory measures to address unhealthy diets and physical inactivity. The mental health mapping work was welcomed. As there had been little progress in the surveillance group it was agreed that this work would not be included in future Task Force meetings. It was suggested however that UNDP and WHO could develop a publication that brings together WHO's NCD data with data from UNDP's human development index. Task Force members agreed that while the Task Force provided a valuable platform for Thematic Working Groups, if there was limited progress they should be discontinued.

9. While there were reservations from a small number of Task Force members, the group as a whole accepted the recommendation of the Communication TWG that the Task Force visual identity should be changed to replace #NCDs with #BeatNCDs forthwith.

Action:

- B1.** Joint Programmes to continue resource mobilisation efforts and report back at the next meeting.
- B2.** The Task Force to request HECC to establish a sub-group or TWG specifically focused on NCDs.
- B3.** Thematic working groups to continue and report back at the next meeting.
- B4.** Task Force visual identity to be updated and used on future publications.
- B5.** Preparation of a short report that collates NCD data from WHO with UNDP's HDI.

C. GLOBAL ACTION PLAN ON PHYSICAL ACTIVITY 2018-2030

10. A number of Task Force members have previously participated in discussions on the draft Global action plan on physical activity (GAPPA) 2018-2030. The Ninth meeting highlighted the multisectoral nature of GAPPA and the need for cross UN action to support delivery of GAPPA once it is finalised. GAPPA's links to air pollution, road accidents and 8 of the SDGs were highlighted. The Task Force proposed that a TWG on physical activity be established. It was agreed that the Secretariat would work with Task Force members to identify next steps.

Action:

- C1.** Secretariat to work with Task Force members to identify next step for Task Force action to support GAPPA.

D. TOBACCO CONTROL

11. It was agreed that a TWG on tobacco control be established and suggested areas of activity were shared with participants.² The TWG will now develop Terms of Reference and a programme of work for the next Task Force meeting. The Task Force also took note of ongoing discussions in the ILO Governing Body whether to sever ties to the tobacco industry. While no conclusions at the ILO Governing Body have been reached, Task Force members highlighted that engaging with tobacco industry were not in line with the principles and terms of reference of the Task Force.³

Action:

- D1.** Secretariat to work with WHO, WHO FCTC Secretariat, UNDP and other Task Force members to establish a TWG on tobacco control and agree Terms of Reference.

²(i)Identify what is needed to encourage UNCTs in LMICs to engage in WHO FCTC implementation as a development priority and then develop and implement action plan;(ii) guide and facilitate implementation of UN model policy;(iii) guide and facilitate implementation of UN smokefree campus and (iv) continue to promotion of Articles 17 and 18 of the WHO FCTC

³ Paragraph 22 of the Task Force's Terms of Reference says that 'public health policies for the prevention and control of NCDs must be protected from undue influence by any form of vested interest'.

E. FUTURE STRATEGIC DIRECTION OF THE TASK FORCE

11. Detailed discussions were held on the strengths and weakness of the Task Force's work to date and how to enhance the Task Force's capabilities and response to country needs. Two discussion papers were presented (Task Force members not at the meeting can access these through the Secretariat). Members reviewed progress to date and considered that despite very limited resources the Task Force had made significant achievements. But equally clear was the view that without further scale up in resources, the Task Force would not be able to catalyse the sort of support that is required at country level in order to follow up joint programming missions and the result would be frustration at the country level. The challenge of having over 40 Task Force members was also discussed, many of whom have little or no country presence. A further constraint was the small size of the Secretariat and this was having an impact when it came to strategic thinking, following up joint programming missions, resource mobilisation, advocacy and coordination of wider Task Force activities. As a result of the discussion, the Secretariat said that it would look to establish a small group of Task Force members (in particular those with significant country presence) to drive forward the areas above.

Action:

E1. UNIATF Secretariat to convene a small group of members to meet regularly to progress action as detailed above, including the contours for the 2018-2019 work plan and a monitoring framework.

E2. Develop a joint letter from the WHO Director-General and the UNDP Administrator to the heads of agencies represented on the Task Force to ensure greater engagement and action in the work of the Task Force. The letter should also promote UN engagement and participation in the 2018 UN high level meeting on NCDs.

E3. Consider bringing together a selection of UN agency heads during global events to highlight the need for joint UN action on the NCD-related SDGs.

E4. Consider promoting the Task Force through the UN Interagency Games.

F. DATES AND VENUES FOR TASK FORCE MEETINGS

16. The Tenth Meeting will be held in Vienna in February 2018 hosted by IAEA. Participants agreed that the meeting should provide the opportunity for the IAEA staff association to promote ongoing work in the area of physical activity in the workplace. Expressions of interest were received from WIPO to host the 11th meeting, UNSCN the 12th meeting.

Action:

F1. Identify the dates and venues for the future Task Force meetings (UNIATF Secretariat)

Annex 1: List of Participants

Ninth Meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs

Thursday 9 – Friday 10 November 2017

Venue: World Health Organization, Geneva

List of Participants (agencies and names in alphabetical order)

[Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria \(GFATM\)](#)

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Senior Advisor, Health Systems Strengthening

[International Atomic Energy Agency \(IAEA\)](#)

Jean Pierre Cayol

Departmental Programme Coordinator

Elena Fidarova

Radiation Oncologist

[International Agency for Research on Cancer \(IARC\)](#)

Eduardo Seleiro

Scientific Officer, Office of the Director, International Agency for Research on Cancer

[International Committee of the Red Cross \(ICRC\)](#)

Sigiriya Aebischer Perone

Coordinator ICRC-HUG , NCD focal point

[International Development Law Organization \(IDLO\)](#)

David Patterson

Manager / Advisor, Health Programs

[International Labor Office \(ILO\)](#)

Yuka Ujita

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[International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#)

May Al-Bezreh

Migration Health

Poonam Dhavan

Migration Health Programme Coordinator

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Andrea Feigl

Health Economist

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[United Nations University-International Institute for Global Health \(UNU-IIGH\)](#)

Obijiofor Aginam

Director Ad-Interim/Officer-in-Charge

[World Food Programme \(WFP\)](#)

Kathryn Ogden

Nutrition Officer

[World Intellectual Property Organization \(WIPO\)](#)

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Vera da Costa

Head, Convention Secretariat

Guangyuan Liu

Team Leader, Governance and International Cooperation, Convention Secretariat

Rodrigo Santos Feijo

Technical Officer, Development Assistance, Convention Secretariat

[World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)

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Assistant Director-General, Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health

Nick Banatvala

Senior Adviser, Office of the Assistant Director-General, NCDs and Mental Health

Douglas Bettcher

Director, Prevention of Noncommunicable Diseases

Francesco Branca

Director, Department of Nutrition for Health and Development

Fiona Bull

Program Manager, Surveillance and Population-based Prevention

Mariana Crespo

External Relations Officer

Country Cooperation and Collaboration with the United Nations System

Tarun Dua

Medical officer, Evidence, Research, Action on Mental & Brain Disorders

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Juana Willumsem

Technical officer, Surveillance and Population-based Prevention

Annex 2: Agenda

Ninth Meeting of the UN Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs

Thursday 9 – Friday 10 November 2017

Venue: WHO, Geneva (Salle D)

Programme

**Please note: Background papers for each agenda item will be posted on EZcollab - <http://ezcollab.who.int/uniatf/>.
Hardcopies will not be available at the meeting**

Chair

Svetlana Axelrod, WHO Assistant Director-General, Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health

Moderator

Werner Obermeyer, Deputy Executive Director, WHO Office at the United Nations

DAY 1: Thursday 9 November 2017

09:00-09:30	Welcome, introductions and opening remarks
Agenda item 1 09:30-09:45	Review of summary of the 8th Task Force meeting
Agenda item 2 09:45-10:15	Update on global events and assignments
10:15-10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
Agenda item 3 10:45-13:00	Short reports • Joint programming missions and follow up. • Joint Programmes: (i) Be He@lthy, Be Mobile; (ii) cancer control; (iii) cervical cancer; (iv) NCD governance; and (v) FCTC 2030. • Thematic and other groups: (i) mental health; (ii) harmful use of alcohol; (iii) NCDs and the environment; (iv) surveillance; (v) communication; (vi) humanitarian emergencies. • Other areas: (i) NCDs and the law; (ii) NCDs and human rights. • Recent issues around tobacco control.
13:00-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
Agenda item 4 14:00-15:15	Strengthening joint UN action around the WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity To include an overview of the Global Action Plan, the business case for action, and agreement on UN support, work plan and coordination mechanisms.
15.15 – 15.45	<i>Coffee break</i>
Agenda item 5 15:45 – 17:00	Open discussion on lessons learnt from the first 4 years of the Task Force – mini SWOT analysis

DAY 2: Friday 10 November 2017 – strategic direction, business and financing models for the Task Force – 2018 and beyond

Agenda item 6 09:15 – 10:45	Strengthening joint UN action around the Ending Childhood Obesity Strategy Implementation Plan and the broader work of the Task Force on Nutrition - To review the ECHO Implementation Plan, its links with the Nutrition Decade of Action and how the UN system can contribute to the resourcing and activities around the ECHO implementation plan and its action networks. - To review progress of the Thematic Working Group on Nutrition
10.45 – 11.15	<i>Coffee break</i>
Agenda item 7 11:15-12:45	Future strategic direction and financing of the Task Force activities, including business and financing models for NCDs and the Task Force and winnable battles. How can the Task Force contribute most effectively to universal health coverage? Strategic action on tobacco control: the role of the Task Force
12:45-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
Agenda item 7 14:00-15:15	Future strategic direction (continued)
15:15-15:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
Agenda item 7 15:45-16:30	Future strategic direction (continued)
Agenda item 8 16:30 – 16:45	Dates and venues for 2018 Task Force meetings
	<i>End of meeting</i>