

Call to Action: United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases

NCDs and mental health require whole-of-government and whole-of-society action. In 2011, Member States called for a coherent, coordinated UN system response.¹

The [Task Force](#) was established in 2013 to meet that call. [Reporting to ECOSOC](#), it brings together 46 UN agencies, funds, programmes, intergovernmental organizations, and development banks, and is coordinated by a WHO secretariat.² The Task Force:

1. Has worked with over 40 countries through joint [UN programming missions](#) to galvanize high-level political commitment and strengthen multisectoral NCD responses.
2. Has delivered consistent, quality technical support to countries in developing, implementing and evaluating multisectoral action plans.
3. Has provided guidance and advocacy for NCDs and mental health to be included in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. In 2012/13, 45% of frameworks included NCDs. In 2022/23 it was 77%.³
4. Has worked with over 30 countries to develop national [NCD and mental health investment cases](#), [catalyzing action through greater engagement](#) from finance ministries and partners.⁴
5. Established the [Health4Life Fund](#) with UNDP, UNICEF and WHO to mobilize resources for country-led, multisectoral action on NCDs and mental health, and help close funding gaps, with funds now being disbursed to countries.⁵

What the [2024 joint independent evaluation](#) on the Task Force says...

‘The Task Force is an effective coordination mechanism and is an exemplar of the UN working as one.’

‘The Secretariat is highly effective in convening Task Force members and coordinating its activities. There is a high demand for the Task Force’s coordination role among Member States and UN agencies based on its unique mandate.’

‘The Task Force has played a key role in integrating and promoting NCDs in global health agendas.’

‘Member agencies respondents have considered that the Task Force is a valuable mechanism to develop joint programmes.’

‘The Task Force has met [its] target to increase the number of countries that request and receive policy guidance and technical support from the Task Force for which there is evidence that recommendations are being implemented.’

‘The Health4Life fund has so far raised over US\$7 m and is dedicated to raising catalytic resources to support country responses, underscoring an efficient allocation of resources for effective country support.’

¹ Paragraph 51 of the [2011 political declaration](#)

² The [2014 outcome document](#) and [2018 political declaration](#) emphasized the importance of the Task Force. [ECOSOC resolutions](#) have broadened the Task Force mandate year-on-year.

³ See: <https://uniatf.who.int/guidance-publications/un-sustainable-development-frameworks>. In 2012/2013, 45% of countries included NCDs. By 2020/2021 this had increased to 79%.

⁴ In Paragraph 24 of the 2018 political declaration, heads of state and government committed to ‘develop, as appropriate, a national investment case on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases to raise awareness about the national public health burden caused by non-communicable diseases, health inequities, the relationship between non-communicable diseases, poverty and social and economic development, the number of lives that could be saved and the return on investment.’

⁵ In Paragraph 46 of the 2018 political declaration, heads of state and government committed to ‘...explore voluntary innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships, including with the private sector, to advance action at all levels.’

6. Has published widely used tools, including the [What government ministries need to know about NCDs](#) series, helping embed NCDs across sectors.

7. Has driven joint programmes like NCD [NCD2030](#), [SAFER](#) and new platforms like the [Legislators Initiative](#) – supporting countries to build healthier, more resilient societies.

2025 is a pivotal year for NCDs, mental health and well-being, and for ensuring that the UN system is strongly positioned to respond to the increasing demands of Member States. With only five years to achieve the SDG targets, the 2025 political declaration will provide the platform for the ambitious scale up of the Task Force's work to support Member States deliver multisectoral whole-of-government and whole-of-society action.

The Task Force should...
'identify and mobilize Member States champion(s) to support the development and implementation of its 2026-2030 strategy'.

*Recommendation from the
[joint independent evaluation](#)*

In the political declaration we urge Heads of State and Government to:

- ✓ **Call upon United Nations agencies, development banks and other regional and intergovernmental organizations, including United Nations Country Teams, to scale up support to Member States in delivering whole-of-government and whole-of-society action** to prevent and control NCDs and improve mental health, including through: (i) fiscal, legislative and regulatory action; (ii) tackling social, commercial and economic determinants of health; (iii) increasing, and maximising the impact of domestic and catalytic resources; and (iv) strengthening governance and accountability.

In line with the 2018 political declaration (Paragraph 47), [ECOSOC resolutions on the Task Force](#) and the Task Force's [Terms of Reference](#)

- ✓ **Call upon the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases to scale up its work**, taking into account the joint independent evaluation, in coordinating UN system agencies and intergovernmental organizations to provide technical and political support to Member States, including through the Health4Life Fund.

In response to the 2018 political declaration⁶ and the 2025 UN Secretary-General progress report⁷

At the high-level meeting we encourage Member States and partners to:

- **Use the Task Force as an 'exemplar of the UN working as one', for UN reform under UN80.**
- **Support the development and implementation of the Task Force's 2026-2030 strategy.**
- **Scale up sustainable funding for the Task Force, as an exemplar of the UN working as one, to enable it to provide the necessary resources to assist Member States meet the NCD- and mental health-related SDG targets, including by resourcing the Health4Life Fund.**

⁶ [A/RES/73/2](#). Political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (paragraphs 24 and 26).

⁷ [A/79/762](#). Progress on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and the promotion of mental health and well-being. Note by the Secretary-General (paragraph 29).