



**UN INTERAGENCY
TASK FORCE ON NCDs**



**Twenty-first meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency
Task Force on the Prevention and Control of
Non-communicable Diseases**

10–12 October 2023

Twenty-first meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, 10–12 October 2023

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This publication contains the report of the twenty-first meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases and does not necessarily represent the decisions or policies of WHO.

Contents

Contents

A. Objectives and participating agencies	1
B. Review of the summary of the twentieth meeting	1
C. Updates on global events.....	1
D. Health4Life Fund.....	2
E. Updates on selected joint workstreams and programmes	2
F. Session on human rights and NCDs	5
G. Tobacco control	5
H. Other updates.....	7
I. Task Force awards	8
J. Report to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)	8
K. Dates and venues of future Task Force meetings	8
Annex 1. Summary Agenda	9
Annex 2. List of participants.....	10
Annex 3. Review of actions agreed at the twentieth meeting of the Task Force	15

A. Objectives and participating agencies

1. The twenty-first meeting of the United Nations (UN) Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs), referred to hereafter as the Task Force, was held on 10–12 October 2023 at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria. Twenty-three Task Force member organizations participated.¹ IAEA and WHO chaired the meeting. The agenda and list of participants are presented in Annex 1 and Annex 2, respectively.

2. The objectives of the meeting were to: (i) review progress on actions agreed at the twentieth meeting (8–10 March 2023); (ii) review commitments made by Member States during the high-level session at the Seventy-eighth UN General Assembly relevant to the work of the Task Force and discuss “early thinking” on the next high-level meeting on NCDs; (iii) receive updates on joint programmes and other workstreams; and (iv) agree on an approach for independent joint evaluation of the work of the Task Force. A special session on human rights and NCDs was also held.

B. Review of the summary of the twentieth meeting

3. The Task Force Secretariat reviewed progress against actions agreed at the twentieth meeting (Annex 3).

Action

B1. Continue to identify opportunities to highlight the work of the Task Force at meetings of senior management and governing bodies and of The World Bank and regional development banks (Convention Secretariat, UNHCR, UN Habitat, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, UN Women, World Food Programme (WFP), World Bank, regional development banks and the Task Force Secretariat).

C. Updates on global events

4. Task Force members provided a rapid update on major global events and initiatives held in recent months, including: (i) IAEA ([Rays of Hope](#) initiative and the side event held during the 67th General Conference); (ii) WHO FCTC (World Health Assembly side event [Working towards a tobacco-free world](#) and current status of needs assessment and technical support missions); (iii) UN Habitat ([UN Habitat Assembly briefing session on better quality of life](#)); WIPO (the ITU-WIPO-WHO [Global Initiative on AI for Health](#)); (iv) OHCHR (recent presentations on NCDs to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and recent publication of the OHCHR–WHO [guidance on mental health, human rights and legislation](#)); (v) UNDP (presentation of health tax revenue forecasting reports at the September 2023 Gulf Health Council General Meeting, and the ongoing evaluation of the Algerian national NCD multisectoral action plan); and (vi) WHO ([UN High-Level Meeting on UHC 2023](#), Small Island Developing States ([SIDS](#)) ministerial conferences on NCDs and mental health, global and regional meetings on NCDs in humanitarian settings, [Knowledge Action Portal on NCDs](#), [NCD Lab](#), launch of the [framework for meaningful](#)

¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Development Law Organization (IDLO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN Habitat), United Nations Nutrition (UN Nutrition), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Bank, WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) Secretariat (Convention Secretariat), World Health Organization (WHO), World Trade Organization (WTO) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

[engagement of people living with NCDs, mental health and neurological conditions](#), [global report on hypertension](#), [global mapping report on multisectoral action](#), and [guidelines on carbohydrate intake, fat and trans-fats intake, non-sugar sweeteners, food marketing and red and processed meat](#).

Actions

C1. Task Force Secretariat to continue to work with WHO and other Task Force members to prepare for the fourth high-level meeting on NCDs in 2025, including preparatory meetings such as the second financing dialogue (WHO, Task Force Secretariat, Convention Secretariat and other members of the Task Force).

C2. Develop an action plan for enhancing collaboration with the UN Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs to further the objectives of the Task Force strategy (Task Force Secretariat).

C3. Explore options to mark the 10 years of the World Health Assembly resolution on palliative care (INCB, WHO and UNODC).

D. Health4Life Fund

5. The Health4Life Fund Secretariat and UNDP, on behalf of the three participating UN organizations (UNDP, UNICEF and WHO), provided an update on ongoing activities, including Founding Strategic Partners, recent steering committee decisions and the [Government of Scotland's pledge](#) to contribute GBP 2.5 million to the fund.

E. Updates on selected joint workstreams and programmes

6. WHO provided an update on development of a method for national investment cases for [assistive technologies](#), which is based on a global method developed by ATscale, the Global Partnership for Assistive Technology, and on WHO assistive technology toolkits.

7. ITU and the Task Force Secretariat provided an overview on progress in finalizing the global [digital health](#) investment case, with plans to launch the report in the near future. An update on work to develop a method for national digital health investment cases was also provided.

8. United for Global Mental Health provided an update on the activities of the interagency working group on [mental health comorbidities](#), including: (i) supporting countries in including mental health in the Global Fund's seventh grant cycle; (ii) development of an e-learning module for Global Fund stakeholders on the links between mental health and HIV and tuberculosis (TB); (iii) a toolbox to support engagement of national stakeholders in Global Fund country dialogue and positioning mental health as core to improving HIV and TB programme effectiveness; and (iv) aligning messages among group members and joint participation during advocacy events.

9. UNDP presented the activities of the working group on comorbidity with NCDs and [communicable diseases](#), including: (i) development of a document repository; (ii) a policy brief on recognizing the benefits of integrating responses to NCDs and communicable diseases; and (iii) development of a method for investment cases on comorbidity.

10. UN Habitat described ongoing discussions on development of [healthy city](#) indicators, the upcoming

Regional Healthy Cities conference in Doha, Qatar, and plans to work with the IOC on linking city development, sport and NCDs.

11. OHCHR described recent evidence presented by (i) the Task Force Secretariat and UNICEF on the importance of human rights in the prevention and control of NCDs and mental health conditions to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and (ii) the Task Force Secretariat and the Convention Secretariat on tobacco control. OHCHR is exploring with two Member States whether the Human Rights Council can establish a specific workstream on NCDs.

12. The UN Nutrition Secretariat described the activities of the Nutrition Technical Working Group. The Group has: (i) contributed to the UN Nutrition report on [nutrition and the environment](#); (ii) finalized the guidance for Task Force country missions to incorporate nutrition; (iii) completed a nutrition investment case report for Zimbabwe; and (iv) defined opportunities for intensifying inclusion of NCDs in food systems through the functions of the [Coalition of Action on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems for Children and All \(HDSFS\)](#). The working group is also exploring the possibility of a joint programming mission to a SIDS. UN Nutrition co-convened a side-event at the 78th UN General Assembly with WHO and Scaling up Nutrition on [Integrating Essential Nutrition Actions into Universal Health Coverage](#).

13. WHO and ILO provided updates on joint activities for tackling NCDs in the workplace, including estimating the burden of diseases attributable to occupational risks, a brief on a policy for mental health at work and an advocacy and policy brief on healthy and safe teleworking. WHO and ILO are developing a joint global framework for healthy, safe, resilient workplaces. They are also collaborating with the International Agency for Research on Cancer on joint actions to prevent occupational cancers, with a multi-level approach to screening, diagnosing, treating and preventing occupation- and work-related cancers.

14. UNDP and the Task Force Secretariat provided an update on the joint programme to catalyse multisectoral action on NCDs (NCD2030). Ongoing activities include supporting UNDP and WHO country offices to scale up countries' NCD and mental health multisectoral action, NCD and mental health investment cases and development of new methods for investment cases for physical activity, road safety, air pollution, alcohol control and advanced clinical interventions.

15. WHO presented its SAFER alcohol control initiative in Nepal and Uganda and its plans for work in other countries (both full SAFER programming and "lighter touch" programmes). WHO suggested that a special session be held at the next Task Force meeting to discuss UN system partnerships with SAFER. WHO also suggested that a future Task Force meeting discuss ways to ensure uniform interactions between UN system agencies and the alcohol industry.

16. The informal interagency group on NCDs in humanitarian settings is defining research priorities and developing a set of NCD indicators for humanitarian settings. The group has linked with a working group on palliative care in humanitarian settings and contributed to the WHO *Operational manual on noncommunicable diseases in emergencies preparedness and responses* and a journal article on *Integrating NCD prevention and control in preparedness, resilience and response to humanitarian emergencies: comprehensive recommendations and call to action*. A WHO global high-level technical meeting on NCDs in emergencies will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 27–29 February 2024 as part of preparations for the fourth high-level meeting on NCDs in 2025. The Task Force Secretariat has been invited to join the Scientific Committee. Regional consultations are currently taking place.

17. UNAIDS updated the meeting on the Cervical Cancer Elimination UN Joint Action Group (UNJAG), which currently consists of IAEA, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, Unitaids and WHO, and finalization of its terms of reference (ToR). UNJAG is the successor to the UN global joint programme. WHO provided an update on progress in supporting countries in implementing the global strategy to accelerate elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem. WHO indicated that a partner meeting is planned for the near future.

18. WHO and IDLO provided an update on the Regulatory and Fiscal Capacity Building Programme (RECAP) to promote healthy diets and physical activity. The programme continues to build capacity to strengthen countries' regulatory and fiscal interventions, including facilitating national and international collaboration and supporting the development and use of research and evidence.

Actions

E1. Task Force members to participate in the launch of the digital health business case and to use it to advocate for scaling up digital solutions for NCDs and mental health (All).

E2. Propose the inclusion of indicators of urban design and development to combat NCDs, and discuss the idea of joint Task Force missions at the upcoming Regional Healthy Cities conference in Doha, Qatar (UN Habitat).

E3. Explore investment opportunities in urban design to facilitate provision of exercise and sport through the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (SDCF) Cities initiative and as a proposal for the Health4life Fund (UN Habitat with IOC, UNDP, UNICEF and Task Force Secretariat).

E4. Human Rights Team to continue to review and update its work plan, taking into account the discussion during the special session on human rights and NCDs, as well as updates provided on assistive technology (OHCHR and the Human Rights Team).

E5. Nutrition Technical Working Group to: (i) position and finalize messages on the nexus of environment, climate, health and nutrition in readiness for events, notably the 28th UN Climate Change Conference; (ii) give specific attention to addressing NCDs related to overweight and diet in discussions on food systems, including through the HDSFS Coalition; (iii) take part in a joint mission in a SIDS on climate change and healthy diets in line with the International Coalition for Advocacy on Nutrition (I-CAN); (iv) test the revised nutrition guidance to provide technical support to two countries to include evidence of policy and legislative implementation; and (v) publish and disseminate the method and the case report on investment in nutrition in Zimbabwe.

E6. Explore opportunities to use existing or, where appropriate, establish informal networks of parliamentarians and ministries of finance to advocate for investment and action on NCDs and mental health, taking into account investment case findings (Task Force Secretariat and UNDP).

E7. Explore involvement of Task Force members' country and regional offices in SAFER (WHO and other Task Force members).

E8. Resume dialogue in the Task Force about better alignment of the UN system's interaction with the alcohol industry (All).

E9. Share the reports of the WHO regional meetings on NCDs in emergencies with Task Force members (Task Force Secretariat and WHO).

E10. Ensure effective contribution of Task Force members at the Global High-level Meeting on NCDs in Emergencies (Task Force Secretariat, UNHCR and WHO).

E11. UN Joint Action Group for Cervical Cancer Elimination (CCE) to resume its work according to its revised ToR and report on its progress at the next Task Force meeting (UN Joint Action Group for CCE).

E12. Task Force members that are implementing complementary activities to RECAP to contact IDLO and WHO to share lessons and good practices in countries and explore opportunities for collaboration (All).

E13. Develop a concept note for discussion at a future Task Force meeting on how the Task Force can strengthen its support to Member States to scale up action on the prevention and control of NCDs in the workplace and on how Task Force members can be exemplary by promoting occupational safety in their organizations, including through the UN Forum on Occupational Health and Safety (ILO and WHO).

F. Session on human rights and NCDs

19. OHCHR and the UN Nutrition Secretariat led a session on human rights-based approaches (HRBA) to NCD prevention and control. During the first part of the session, members discussed how HRBA can result in a more effective response; in the second part, they explored practical examples of use of HRBA by Task Force members in their country.

Action

F1. Human rights team to summarize the session and review its work plan in the light of the discussion (OHCHR and the UN Nutrition Secretariat).

G. Tobacco control

20. The Convention and Task Force secretariats invited Task Force members that are observers to the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the WHO FCTC and the Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products to encourage relevant country and sub-regional colleagues to attend the tenth COP (COP10) and the third MOP (MOP3) in Panama, 27–30 November 2023.² The relation between human rights and tobacco will also be discussed at COP10.

21. UNDP and the Convention Secretariat provided an update on two joint publications, the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) dimensions of illicit trade and supporting Parties to access UN support to implement the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products. Thirteen sectoral briefs on tobacco control are being finalized for COP10.

22. The Convention Secretariat shared plans for a webinar on 2 November 2023 to launch the Toolkit for Article 17 of the WHO FCTC to support Parties in promoting alternative livelihoods for tobacco growing.

23. The Convention Secretariat presented the proposed revision of reporting systems for the WHO FCTC and the Protocol to improve data quality and reduce the reporting burden on Parties. As part of the revision, it has been proposed that UN official statistics be used to supplement or replace some of the data collected. The Convention Secretariat has been exploring use of tobacco-related data from other agencies.

24. WHO reported that World No Tobacco Day 2024 will focus on tobacco industry interference and would highlight how the tobacco industry promotes new markets for tobacco and nicotine products, especially among children and young people.

25. The Convention Secretariat shared a recent [video](#) on the importance for Task Force members of implementing the [Model Policy for Agencies of the United Nations System on Preventing Tobacco Industry Interference](#). The Convention Secretariat once again urged Task Force members to nominate a focal point for the Alert Network for Tobacco Industry Involvement (ANTII), so that the Convention Secretariat can help them to protect their reputations from being tainted by association with the tobacco industry.

26. WHO thanked Task Force members for their decision not to participate in the Concordia event held

² The theme of COP10 is “Together, promoting healthier lives”. The theme of MOP3 is “More Parties, greater traceability, less illicit trade”.

during the UN General Assembly, in which the chief executive officer of Philip Morris International (PMI) was to be a speaker. In response to this principled stance, Concordia revoked the membership of PMI and withdrew the chief executive officer from the list of speakers for the event. This leadership is commendable and underscores a commitment to global health objectives.

27. WHO provided an update on progress in encouraging UN campuses to become tobacco-free. So far, discussions have been held with the UN Office at Geneva, WFP, the World Meteorological Organization and the Global Fund on their respective smoke-free policies. Task Force members noted with considerable concern that tobacco products are still sold in the commissary at the Vienna International Centre, the campus and building complex that hosts the UN Office in Vienna. It was suggested that future Task Force meetings not be held in locations in which tobacco and/or nicotine products are sold. In this regard, attention was drawn to the Task Force's current strategy.³

Actions

G1. Explore advocacy for SDG target 3.a (accelerated implementation of WHO FCTC) in the preparation and organization of the 2025 High-level Meeting on NCDs, as well as other high-level events such as the Summit for the Future and the Fourth International Conference on SIDS (Convention Secretariat, OHCHR, Task Force Secretariat, UNDP, WHO and WHO Office at the United Nations).

COP10 and MOP3

G2. Encourage country, sub-regional and regional offices of intergovernmental organizations accredited as observers to participate in COP10 (20–25 November 2023) and MOP3 (27–30 November 2023) in Panama (Convention and Task Force secretariats).

G3. Explore establishment of a booth to highlight the work of the Task Force on tobacco control at future meetings (COP11 and beyond) (Convention Secretariat and Task Force Secretariat).

Human rights and tobacco

G4. Raise the visibility of the WHO FCTC as a tool to promote the right to health and the broader human rights agenda in UN fora (Convention Secretariat, OHCHR and Task Force Secretariat).

G5. Share COP10 outcomes on human rights with Task Force members, and agree on follow-up actions to the outcomes (Convention Secretariat).

Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products

G6. Task Force members to provide input into the report on accessing UN-wide support for implementing the Protocol (Convention Secretariat and UNDP).

Model policy (Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC)

G7. Share the link to the Model Policy explainer video with Task Force members for widespread dissemination (Convention Secretariat and Task Force Secretariat).

G8. Encourage Task Force members to name a focal point for the ANTII to the Convention Secretariat (All).

FCTC2030

G9. Task Force members to provide feedback on tobacco sectoral briefs, including their most effective use after the launch during COP10 (Convention Secretariat, Task Force Secretariat and UNDP).

³ The fourth strategic priority of the 2022–2025 strategy is to “exemplify an ever more effective UN system”, the Task Force being “a beacon of excellence among UN and development partners”. It states that “the Task Force will encourage its members to implement policies for healthy (including smokefree) workplaces and the model policy for agencies of the UN system on preventing tobacco industry interference”.

Tobacco-free UN campuses

G10. Explore options for the WHO Director-General to write to the heads of relevant agencies that are based on campuses where tobacco and/or nicotine products are still sold (Convention Secretariat, Task Force Secretariat and WHO).

Alternative livelihoods

G11. Task Force members to participate in the launch of the webinar on the Toolkit for Article 17 of the WHO FCTC (Convention Secretariat, All).

2024 World No Tobacco Day

G12. Identify ways in which Task Force members can make effective contributions to World No Tobacco Day 2024 (WHO and all members of the Task Force).

Data exchange and analysis

G13. Task Force members to inform WHO and the Convention Secretariat of opportunities to share tobacco-related data (Convention Secretariat and members of the Task Force).

H. Other updates

29. The Task Force Secretariat informed members that an independent formative evaluation of the work of the Task Force will be conducted in the coming months. The evaluation will provide recommendations for enhancing the Task Force's effectiveness in supporting Member States and working with development partners to scale up action on NCDs and mental health conditions.

30. WHO presented the draft tool, *Supporting Member States in informed decision-making before engaging with private sector entities for the prevention and control of NCDs*, and welcomed feedback before the publication is finalized.

31. The Task Force Secretariat provided updates on: (i) progress in finalizing the new Task Force website; (ii) the revised monitoring and evaluation indicators for the 2022–2025 Task Force strategy; (iii) an update on the method being used to review inclusion of NCDs and mental health in UN SDCFs; and (iv) the results of a survey on how NCDs and mental health are being incorporated into Task Force members' governing body policies, strategies, plans and budgets.

Actions

H1. Task Force members to: (i) provide comments on the draft ToR by 27 November 2023; (ii) express interest in joining the Evaluation Management Group; and (iii) explore the possibility that their agency could make a financial contribution to the evaluation (All).

H2. Provide comments on the draft tool *Supporting Member States in informed decision-making before engaging with private sector entities for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases* (All).

H3. Task Force Secretariat to explore with a few Task Force members the most effective approach to populating members' publications for the new Task Force website (Task Force Secretariat and other members).

H4. Task Force members to respond to the survey on inclusion of NCDs and mental health in governing body policies, strategies and plans shared by the Task Force Secretariat (All).

H5. Finalize and publish the revised reports of analyses of inclusion of NCDs and mental health in UN SDCFs (Task Force Secretariat).

H6. Determine baselines and targets for the M&E framework of the Task Force Strategy 2022–2025 (Task Force Monitoring and Evaluation Group).

I. Task Force awards

32. The Task Force Secretariat thanked members who had served on the selection committee for their work. The Task Force Secretariat shared the names of the winners, which had been announced at the Friends of the Task Force meeting during the Seventy-eighth UN General Assembly.

Action

I1. Review the impact of the awards scheme, and identify opportunities for the winners to provide individual or collective mentoring of others (Task Force Secretariat).

J. Report to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

33. Task Force members will be requested to provide input to the next ECOSOC report in the second quarter of 2024.

K. Dates and venues of future Task Force meetings

34. It was agreed that the 22nd meeting of the Task Force would be held in March or April 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Action

K1. Task Force Secretariat to explore dates, hosts and potential venues for the 22nd meeting. Members to inform the Task Force Secretariat of competing events in order to avoid those dates.

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Annex 1. Summary Agenda

(full agenda available to Task Force Members on EZCollab)

Co-moderators:

May Abdel-Wahab (IAEA)

Werner Obermeyer (WHO Office at the United Nations)

Day 1: Tuesday 10 October 2023

Time	Agenda Item
Agenda item 1 14.30–14.40	Welcome and introductions
Agenda item 2 14.40–15.00	Review of actions agreed at the 20 th meeting
Agenda item 3 15.00–15.40	Updates on selected global events
Agenda item 4 15.40–16:00	Health4Life Fund
Agenda item 5 16:15–17:30	Updates on selected Task Force thematic working groups/workstreams (comorbidities, nutrition, human rights, assistive technologies, and digital health)

Day 2: Wednesday 11 October 2023

Time	Agenda Item
Agenda item 6 10.00–12.00	Special Session on Human Rights and NCDs
Agenda item 7 13.30–15.00	Updates from the Convention Secretariat and WHO No Tobacco group (COP10 and MOP3, human rights and tobacco, FCTC2030, UN Model Policy, Smoke-free UN Campuses, Alternative livelihoods, World No Tobacco Day, and reporting instruments)
Agenda item 8 15.15–16.45	Updates on selected joint UN programmes (NCD 2030, RECAP, cervical cancer, and SAFER)

Day 3: Thursday 12 October 2023

Time	Agenda Item
Agenda item 9 10.00–10.20	Task Force evaluation
Agenda item 10 10.20–10.40	Updates on additional areas of work from the Task Force Secretariat
Agenda item 11 10.40–11.00	New Task Force website
Agenda item 12 11.00–11.30	Supporting Member States in informed decision-making before engaging with private sector entities for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases
Agenda item 13 11.45–12.00	ECOSOC 2023 Report and decisions, and dates and venues for the next Task Force meeting
Agenda item 14 12.00–12.20	Review of action points
Agenda item 15 12.20–12.30	Closing remarks

Annex 2. List of participants

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Trudy Wijnhoven
Nutrition Officer

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

May Abdel-Wahab
Director, Division of Human Health

Alfredo Polo Rubio
Radiation Oncologist

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW ORGANIZATION

Maria Chiara Campisi
Health Law Programme Coordinator

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

Grace Halim
Technical Officer

Halim Hamzaoui
Occupational Safety and Health Specialist

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD

Stefano Berterame
Chief of Section

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

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Associate Director, Public Affairs

Tanja Tuominen

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

Roman Chestnov
Digital Services Project Officer

JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV AND AIDS

Allan Maleche
Executive Director of Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network on HIV and AIDS

Ani Shakarishvili
Special adviser, Team lead, Integrated Systems and Services for HIV and Health

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Lynn Gentile
Human Rights Officer, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Section

THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

Sandra Irbe
Senior Advisor, Implementation, Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health (RSSH)

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

Rory Nefdt
Advisor Health, Head of Child and Community Health

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Daniel Grafton

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Daisy Lanvers

Health Economics Analyst, Health and Development

Emily Roberts

Policy Analyst, Health and Development

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Policy Specialist, Health and NCDs

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Michael Woodman

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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

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Chief Waste Management & Sanitation Urban Basic Services Branch

UNITED NATIONS NUTRITION

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Executive Secretary

Kathryn Ogden

Technical Adviser

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

Elizabeth Saenz

Liaison Officer in Geneva

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Evita Ricafort
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Sabina Timco Iacazzi
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WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

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Alarcos Cieza
Unit Head, Sensory Functions, Disability and Rehabilitation

Suraya Dalil
Director, Special Programme on Primary Health Care UHL

Katia de Pinho Campos
Technical Officer, Global NCD Platform

Corinne Desfarges
GCM Team assistant

Mai Eltigany
Technical officer

Bashier Ennos
Technical Officer

Guy Fones
Head, Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs

Sophie Gumy
Technical Officer

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Annex 3. Review of actions agreed at the twentieth meeting of the Task Force

8–10 March 2023

REVIEW OF THE SUMMARY OF THE NINETEENTH MEETING

B1. Task Force Strategy 2022–2025 indicators to be finalized (Task Force monitoring and evaluation group).

Indicators agreed by the group.

B2. Continue to identify opportunities to highlight the work of the Task Force at meetings of senior management and governing bodies (Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), UN Habitat, UNHCR, OHCHR, Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, UN Women, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Task Force Secretariat).

A better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world: promoting health and well-being to support delivery of the 2020–2023 Strategic Plan. The event was held at the second UN Habitat Assembly in June 2022, led by the UN Habitat Secretariat in collaboration with the Task Force (Secretariat plus WHO, UNDP, UNICEF, OHCHR and the Convention Secretariat). Briefing sessions have been provided to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child by the Task Force Secretariat and UNICEF and by the Convention and Task Force secretariats to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Informal discussions were held with relevant members at the Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards, but nothing concrete was agreed.

TOBACCO CONTROL

C1. Explore advocacy for SDG target 3.a (accelerated implementation of WHO FCTC) in preparation for and organization of the 2025 High-level Meeting on NCDs (Convention Secretariat, OHCHR, Task Force Secretariat, UNDP, WHO, WHO Office at the UN).

Preparations for the high-level meeting are not yet under way. Action to be retained.

C2. Explore how the Summit for the Future (22–23 September 2024) could be used as a platform to highlight the role of the tobacco industry in undermining progress in reaching the SDG targets (Convention Secretariat, OHCHR, Task Force Secretariat, WHO, WHO Office at the UN).

OHCHR, WHO, Convention Secretariat and the Task Force Secretariat have agreed to lead a session on the role of the tobacco industry in subverting progress in global commitments.

Briefing on COP10 and MOP3

C3. Invite observers from intergovernmental organizations to attend COP10 (20–25 November 2023) and MOP3 (27–30 November 2023) of the WHO FCTC in Panama (All).

Task Force and Convention secretariats have e-mailed Task Force members, encouraging them to register or, when required, apply for observer status in the first instance.

C4. Encourage Task Force members to apply for observer status at COP10 and MOP3 before the deadlines of 22 August 2023 and 29 August 2023, respectively (All).

See C3.

Implementation of the Protocol

C5. Prepare a report for the Parties to the Protocol on accessing UN-wide support for implementing the Protocol (Convention Secretariat, OHCHR, Task Force Secretariat, UNDP and UNODC).

UNDP is leading writing of the draft, which will be available mid-December before publication in 2024 for dissemination by the Convention Secretariat. Will solicit comments from Task Force members ahead of publication.

C6. Share background information on the Protocol and on ongoing work on a health tax with Task Force members (Convention Secretariat).

The Convention Secretariat and WHO have collated relevant material and shared it with members by the Task Force Secretariat.

C7. Disseminate background information on the impact of tobacco taxation on low-income groups (WHO).

Part of C6.

Model policy (Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC)

C8. Establish and operationalize the Alert Network for Tobacco Industry Involvement (ANTII) network. Agencies to respond to the Convention Secretariat's e-mail requesting ANTII focal points (Convention Secretariat, All).

Task Force members have received e-mail reminders from the Task Force and Convention secretariats to provide a focal point for the ANTII network.

WHO FCTC 2030

C9. Finalize sectoral briefs and share them with Task Force members to review, identify additional sectors to be included and disseminate further (Convention Secretariat, Task Force Secretariat, UNDP).

UNDP has drafted 13 briefs and is sharing them with Task Force members for comment.

Tobacco-free UN campuses

C10. Agencies that do not have a tobacco-free campus to consider establishing one (member organizations of the Task Force that do not have tobacco-free campuses).

Slow progress because very resource intensive. Further discussion about if and how progress is to be made. A background paper on the latest position has been written for discussion during the session on tobacco.

C11. Continue to encourage and provide guidance to UN agencies in various geographical locations on establishing a tobacco-free UN campus (Convention Secretariat, Task Force Secretariat, WHO).

As C10.

C12. Agencies to align with the UN General Assembly recommendation in resolution A/RES/63/8 to stop selling tobacco products on their premises, including tax-free sales (All).

See C10.

Alternative livelihoods

C13. Support scaling up of the WHO Tobacco Free Farms pilot project in Kenya and Zambia (All).

The first harvest season in three counties in Kenya (Meru, Busia, Bungoma) and the fourth harvest season in Migori are close to completion, with over 2000 farmers moving to alternative livelihoods. Farmer recruitment in Chipangali, Zambia, is under way. WHO, Convention Secretariat, WFP and UNOCD participated in World No Tobacco Day in Migori.

C14. Review the draft alternative livelihood toolkit developed by the Convention Secretariat by 25 March 2023 before finalization (All).

Toolkit finalized and awaiting publication.

C15. Explore links between nutrition, alternatives to tobacco farming and impacts on the environment in order to identify potential collaborators (Convention Secretariat, UN Nutrition and WHO).

WHO, the Convention Secretariat and UN Nutrition met in September 2023 to agree the roles of various UN agencies in supporting the Tobacco-free Farms project. UN Nutrition will provide support by identifying national focal points and sharing messages on the link between tobacco and food security during 2023 World Food Day.

2023 World No Tobacco Day

C16. Members to disseminate campaign material and amplify messages (All).

Several members supported this proposal, including UNDP, UNEP, WHO, the Convention Secretariat and the World Bank.

C17. Encourage heads of agencies to record 30-s videos for the campaign (WHO and other members of the Task Force).

WHO regional and country offices developed videos, including video messages from regional directors. No videos were provided from other heads of agencies.

Data exchange and analysis

C18. Encourage Task Force members to inform WHO and the Convention Secretariat of opportunities to share tobacco-related data (Convention Secretariat and members of the Task Force).

An e-mail was sent to Task Force members requesting them to discuss data sharing and coordination with the Convention Secretariat. Convention Secretariat to report back on responses during the current meeting.

REVIEW OF THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS) HIGH-LEVEL TECHNICAL MEETING ON NCDS

D1. Task Force Secretariat to work with WHO and other members to provide input to the outcome document of the SIDS Ministerial Conference (Task Force Secretariat, WHO, Convention Secretariat and other members of the Task Force).

Actioned. [Bridgetown declaration](#) includes a number of actions relevant to the Task Force:

- Enhance coordination and cooperation among UN and other agencies, entities and frameworks to address the interface of health and climate change, biodiversity, business and human rights, environment, nutrition and emergency preparedness and response.
- Convene SIDS health, trade and relevant sectors through multisectoral platforms to establish coherent solutions, protected against undue influence and conflicts of interest, and raise a collective voice in addressing the commercial determinants of health that cause NCDs, are detrimental to mental health and exacerbate climate risks.
- Regulate harmful marketing practices to children.
- Update health legislation in line with human rights norms, including decriminalization of suicide and prohibition of coercive practices in the treatment of mental health conditions.
- Develop and implement cross-sectoral food system policies.
- Facilitate enhanced implementation of the WHO FCTC.

D2. [Explore the possibility of a joint mission on NCDs and climate change in a SIDS in the WHO African Region \(Task Force Secretariat, WHO Regional Office for Africa, other members of the Task Force\).](#)

Ongoing discussions with Comoros.

UPDATES ON SELECTED GLOBAL EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, WORKSTREAMS, JOINT PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERS

F1. [Task Force Secretariat to continue to work with WHO in planning how the UN system can contribute to the preparation of the fourth high-level meeting on NCDs in 2025 to ensure that Task Force members provide timely, effective input \(WHO, Task Force Secretariat, Convention Secretariat, other members of the Task Force\).](#)

Little to report at the moment.

F2. [Task Force Secretariat to work with WHO to identify how Task Force members can make timely, effective contributions to regional consultations on NCDs in emergencies and to the global high-level meetings on NCDs in SIDS and emergencies in 2023 \(WHO, Task Force Secretariat, other members of the Task Force\).](#)

SIDS ministerial held (14–16 June 2023) with participation of a few Task Force members. Followed on from the technical meeting earlier in the year with a Task Force-led side-event which included more UN agencies. Bridgetown declaration finalized, which highlights the UN system as a partner for action (see D1). The Task Force Secretariat has been invited to join the Scientific Committee of the global high-level technical meeting on *NCDs in humanitarian crises: building resilient health systems, leaving no one behind*, 27–29 February 2024, Copenhagen, Denmark.

F3. [NCD2030:](#)

i. [Finalize and publish the study of the impact of NCD investment cases.](#)

Study finalized and submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

ii. [Explore how SIDS countries can benefit from investment cases.](#)

No progress.

iii. Identify ways for Task Force members to support dissemination of investment case findings (UNDP, WHO, Task Force Secretariat).

Needs further discussion.

F4. Human rights team to finalize its work plan and continue its activities (Human Rights Team).

The Human Rights Team finalized its work plan and continues to implement activities. Full report provided during the meeting.

F5. Interagency Working Group (IAWG) on Mental Health to extend its activities beyond the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and provide input to preparation of upcoming high-level events (IAWG).

The IAWG is updating its terms of reference (TORs) to reflect a widened scope and extension of its activities to include mental health in disease-specific programmes when there is strong evidence of the bidirectional relation. The IAWG has been used as a platform for exchanging and discussing partners' activities in relation to global movements. Collaboration was undertaken in preparation for events at Women Deliver, the International AIDS Society 2023 meeting and, most recently, the UN General Assembly.

F6. The Thematic Working Group on NCDs and Communicable Disease Comorbidities to finalize its TORs and agree on an action plan (Working Group).

TORs finalized. Report back during the meeting.

F7. WHO and the Task Force to continue exploring national missions on ambient air pollution (Task Force Secretariat, WHO, other members of the Task Force).

Limited progress. List of countries to be included continues to be explored.

F8. Nutrition Technical Working Group to:

i. Finalize messages and identify entry points with the NCD Environment group and Human Rights team.

The UN Nutrition report on Nutrition and the Environment has been [published](#), with key messages. The Working Group has provided input to the NCD section on unhealthy diets, mental health and human rights, led by the WHO Human Rights team.

ii. Provide input to a special session of the Task Force meeting on human rights, including engagement of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food.

Special session to be held during the twenty-first Task Force meeting.

iii. Liaise with the WHO Nutrition team to prepare an advocacy statement for the UHC high-level meeting in September.

UN Nutrition co-convened a side event with WHO and Scaling Up Nutrition on the margins of the UN General Assembly on [Integrating Essential Nutrition Actions in Universal Health Coverage](#), at which the investment case for all forms of malnutrition was presented.

iv. Take part in a joint mission in a SIDS.

Being taken forward under D2.

v. Refine the Nutrition Guidance to provide technical support to two countries and to include evidence about policy and legislative implementation.

Nutrition guidance has been finalized with input from Task Force members and is now ready for use in joint programming missions.

vi. Finalize, publish and disseminate the method and Zimbabwe nutrition investment case report.

The report has been peer-reviewed, the comments addressed and being prepared for publication.

vii. Explore opportunities to raise NCDs more strongly in discussions on food systems through the Coalition of Action for Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems (Nutrition Technical Working Group).

WHO, UNICEF, WFP and FAO convened a “[leadership dialogue](#)” during the Food Systems Summit +2 on food systems for people’s nutrition and health, highlighting national actions. Fiji and Mexico spoke about diet-related NCDs. Further opportunities for advocacy are being explored through the [Coalition of Actions for Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems](#).

G. REPORT TO ECOSOC

G1. Task Force members to provide input to the ECOSOC report (All).

Actioned.

H. TASK FORCE AWARDS

H1. Task Force members to consider participating in the Task Force awards selection committee (All).

Actioned. The Selection Committee consisted of IAEA, ITU, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UN Habitat and WHO.

J. DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE TASK FORCE MEETINGS

J1. The twenty-first meeting is to be held in autumn 2023. Members to inform the Task Force Secretariat of competing events in order to avoid those dates. The Task Force Secretariat to explore dates, hosts and potential venues.

Actioned. The twenty-first meeting was hosted by IAEA on 10–12 October 2023.

