

2018 United Nations High-Level Meeting on NCDs

FAQ

What is a United Nations High-Level Meeting (UN HLM)?

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the main decision-making body of the UN representing all 193 Member States and governments, convenes a United Nations High-Level Meeting (UN HLM) to focus on specific global issues that require global political dialogue and international cooperation and solutions. UN HLMs serve to increase awareness of the issue and build consensus and commitment on the way forward. A UN HLM will result in a consensus statement such as a political declaration, outcome document, or Chair's statement.

What has happened at previous UN HLMs for NCDs?

In 2011, Member States held the second-ever health-related UN HLM, the first of which focused on HIV/AIDS. At the UN HLM on NCDs in September 2011, 34 Heads of Government and State adopted a [UN Political Declaration on NCDs](#), recognising NCDs as a major global development challenge. In this political declaration, Member States recognised the definition of 4x4 – the four main NCDs and their four main risk factors – and acknowledged NCD co-morbidities. Member States also made 22 political commitments and called upon WHO to develop a global monitoring framework for NCDs and a global multisectoral partnership. The 2011 Political Declaration called on Member States to meet again in 2014 to discuss progress towards achieving these commitments.

In July 2014, the UN convened the second High-Level Meeting on NCDs, however no Heads of State or Government attended; instead, six Ministers of Health attended. Member States adopted the [2014 UN Outcome Document on NCDs](#), which shifted from global to national commitments, calling upon Member States to deliver on four time-bound commitments to accelerate progress on NCDs – national plans, targets, best buys for prevention, and health systems strengthening.

How was the 2018 UN HLM on NCDs agreed?

The Outcome Document of the 2014 UN HLM on NCDs agreed to host a comprehensive review of progress on NCDs in 2018.

When will the 2018 UN HLM on NCDs take place?

The UN HLM on NCDs will take place at UN Headquarters in New York. While the date has not yet been agreed, NCD Alliance and its partners have requested that the UN HLM take place in September 2018 prior to the opening of the UN General Assembly and General Debate. This will maximise the attendance of Heads of State and Government and ensure the highest level political process possible.

NCD Alliance is also working with the TB community, as the UN agreed in December 2016 to hold the first UN HLM on TB in 2018. NCD Alliance sees this as an opportunity to highlight the links between NCDs and TB, and to emphasise how health-related issues are integrated throughout the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Why is the 2018 UN HLM important for NCDs?

The 2018 UN HLM on NCDs will be the third such meeting on NCDs at the United Nations. This is a global rallying point and a window of opportunity to evaluate progress on NCDs within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UN HLM is an opportunity to focus global and national attention on NCDs, review progress, renew political commitments, and make new, ambitious and time-bound commitments to accelerate progress on NCDs. The UN HLM on NCDs is also an opportunity to include accountability mechanisms as part of the outcome document to ensure future reviews on NCDs at the UN.

What will happen at the 2018 UN HLM on NCDs and how is this decided?

The date, level of representation, agenda, topics, and speakers will be decided by a 'modalities resolution' that is negotiated and agreed by UN Member States in New York. The negotiation and finalisation of the modalities resolution will likely take place in February.

The President of the General Assembly will appoint two Member States to act as co-facilitators of this process. These Member States are chosen based on self-expressed interest and ability to ensure regional representation. The co-facilitators for the 2018 UN HLM on NCDs will likely be announced by January 2018.

Who is organising the 2018 UN HLM on NCDs?

The 2018 High-Level Meeting on NCDs will be organised under the direction of the UN General Assembly, overseen by the Office of the President of the General Assembly and with the support of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

How is the outcome document developed?

The co-facilitators, appointed by the President of the General Assembly, guide the development process of the outcome document. This intergovernmental process will take place at the UN Headquarters in New York, likely during April – July 2018, depending on when the date for the UN HLM is set by the modalities resolution. Permanent missions in NY will negotiate the outcome document, with advice from their country capitals and technical counterparts in Geneva-based missions. WHO provides technical input as needed.

Member States often negotiate the outcome document in political blocs, which are formed by region, such as the G77, European Union, African Union, CARICOM (Caribbean Community), etc. The development of the outcome document is an iterative process and begins with a 'zero draft' upon which Member States and other stakeholders have the opportunity to comment. The co-facilitators steer this process and issue new versions incorporating comments and edits from Member States.

A civil society hearing will likely be organised. NCD Alliance is calling for the establishment of a civil society task force to ensure meaningful participation of civil society and people living with NCDs throughout the process and requests that the civil society hearing to take place no later than June.

Who will attend the 2018 UN HLM on NCDs?

While attendance at the UN HLM will be decided by the modalities resolution, previous UN HLMs on NCDs have included Heads of State and Government, Ministers of Health, UN agencies, civil society, private sector, academia, and other relevant stakeholders.

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