

NCD Alliance Summary
WHO 132nd Executive Board
21-29 January 2013

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) featured prominently on the agenda of the 132nd session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board in Geneva. The EB meeting was an opportunity for Member States, WHO, and civil society to consider the building blocks of a global NCD framework, including the global NCD targets, the draft Global Action Plan for NCDs 2013-2020, and the options for global multisectoral action.

Other equally important global health issues were also on the agenda, including the draft Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020, WHO reform, and health in the post-2015 agenda. Below is a summary of all the important proceedings.

1. Global Monitoring Framework for NCDs

In November 2012, Member States agreed [a global monitoring framework \(GMF\) for NCDs](#), including nine global voluntary targets and 25 indicators. The WHO EB was invited to discuss and note the report on the GMF.

During the discussion, Member States:

- Recognised the importance of the GMF as an ambitious vision for action;
- Noted varying national capacities to implement the GMF;
- Commended the work of the WHO Secretariat in preparing this framework, and noted with appreciation the role of civil society throughout the consultation process.

Decision: The EB endorsed the GMF, including targets and indicators, and put it forward for adoption by all Member States at the 66th World Health Assembly in May 2013.

2. The Draft Global Action Plan for NCD Prevention and Control 2013-2020 (GAP)

The EB discussed the [draft Global Action Plan for NCDs 2013-2020](#). This draft is significantly improved from the Zero Draft, but as Member States noted, there is still work to be done to ensure the GAP is truly a roadmap for action for all sectors.

During the discussion, Member States:

- Noted with appreciation the inclusion of the GMF in the draft GAP, but suggested further integration of the targets across the objectives;
- Reiterated the need for the GAP to be multi-sectoral, engaging ministries beyond the health sector, the whole of the UN system, civil society, and the private sector;
- Cited the desire for the draft to reflect how global actions will translate at regional and national levels;
- Recognised the importance of considering the options for strengthening multi-sectoral action on NCDs through partnership in relation to the GAP.

Decision: The WHO EB confirmed the process for finalising the GAP. WHO will now begin work on the next draft of the GAP, taking into account the EB discussions, outcomes of a forthcoming web-based consultation in February, and the March in-person informal consultations with Member States, civil society, and the private sector. WHO will then consider outcomes of these consultations and produce a final draft for adoption at WHA in May. The role of civil society in these consultations cannot be underestimated, and

we must continue to engage and influence so that the new plan effectively reflects the priorities to address the growing burden of NCDs.

3. Draft Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020

The EB discussion on the [draft Mental Health Action Plan](#) was generally positive, with Member States an opportunity to reflect on the collaboration between the various WHO Action Plans and how the draft Mental Health Action Plan and the Global Action Plan for NCDs are able to complement each other.

During the discussions, Member States:

- Emphasised the need for greater synergy and integration between this plan and the Global NCD Action Plan;
- Generally agreed for further work to be done on the targets and indicators in the plan;
- Recognised the need to see how global actions will be translated into national level plans.

Decision: The WHO EB decided the process for finalising the mental health action plan. WHO will hold an online consultation on the draft plan at the end of February, open to Member States, civil society and the private sector. Based on this consultation, a revised plan will then be submitted to WHA for adoption.

4. WHO Reform Programme

The [WHO Reform](#) process consists of programmatic, governance and managerial reform – with the first two of significant relevance to NCDs. [WHO's 12th General Programme of Work 2014-2019 \(GPW12\)](#) and related Programme Budget will set the priorities and budget of WHO until 2019. The Governance section focuses largely on WHO's engagement with civil society and the private sector. EB Members spoke on the need to harmonise [WHO's hosting arrangements](#) for health partnerships and the [key issues](#) for WHO's engagement with external stakeholders.

During the Discussion, Member States:

- Highlighted the need for greater harmonisation between hosted partnerships and WHO in order to avoid duplication of efforts; agreed on the importance of periodic review of hosted partnerships, and on the need for measures to assess and mitigate the financial risks of hosting partnerships; emphasised the need for WHO to develop a clear definition of hosted partnership that remains constant over time so as to ensure proper costing, transparency and governance; and expressed concern about the need to protect hosted partnerships from vested interests;
- Recognised the importance of engagement with civil society and the private sector, supported widening accreditation for NGOs at WHO meetings, and supported the development of a clear policy on WHO engagement with external stakeholders, both civil society and private sector, with clear recommendations on Conflict of Interest.

Decision: WHO Secretariat will continue developing policies for engagement with both civil society and the private sector, to be presented at the World Health Assembly in May 2013. The Secretariat agreed that there are some overarching principles that will guide all relationships such as transparency, accountability, and the criteria of making a contribution to health. However, WHO must ensure that it properly and appropriately safeguards against vested interests.

5. Post-2015 Development Framework

With global consultations on the post-2015 development agenda currently underway, EB Members reflected on the secretariat [report](#) - *Monitoring the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals: Health in the post-2015 development agenda*. The report positions universal health

coverage (UHC) and healthy life expectancy as central tenants of health in post-2015, with a number of priorities underpinning these, including NCDs.

During the discussions, Member States:

- Emphasised that health should be the cornerstone for the post-2015 development framework;
- Recognised that the future agenda needs to address the 'unfinished business' of the current health-related MDGs, as well as neglected issues such as NCDs;
- Widely agreed on the importance of universal health coverage (UHC) within the future development framework.

Decision: The report was noted by EB Members. This discussion will contribute to the overall position of WHO in post-2015 development proceedings.

Note: This is an informal summary prepared by the NCD Alliance, and is not an official record of the meeting.