

March-April 2016



## News update from the WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on NCD (NCD/GCM)

### Meetings and events

#### **First meeting of the WHO/GCM Working Group on the inclusion of NCDs in other programmatic areas, 4 – 5 April 2016, Geneva, Switzerland**

The first meeting of the WHO GCM/NCD Working Group on the inclusion of NCDs in other programmatic areas will be held 4-5 April 2016 at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

The WHO GCM/NCD Working Group on the inclusion of NCDs in other programmatic areas, such as, reproductive health, maternal and child health and communicable disease programmes was formed under Objective 3 (3.1) of the GCM/NCD 2016-17 work plan to provide a forum to identify barriers and share innovative solutions and actions for the implementation of the global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020 and to promote sustained actions across sectors.

The Working Group will be co-chaired by the following representatives of two Member States, one from a developed country and one from a developing country, appointed in consultation with Member States:

1. H.E. Beatriz Londono Soto, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary; Permanent Representative to the UNOG of Colombia
2. Dr Naoko Yamamoto, Assistant Minister for Director Global Health, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Japan

Meeting documents and other pertinent documents related to the Working Group are available [here](#).

#### **First meeting of the Working Group on alignment of international cooperation with national plans on noncommunicable diseases, 6-7 April 2016, Geneva, Switzerland**

The first meeting of the WHO GCM/NCD Working Group on the alignment of international cooperation with national plans on noncommunicable diseases will be held 6-7 April 2016 at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

The WHO GCM/NCD Working Group on alignment of international cooperation with national plans on NCDs (Working Group 3.2, 2016-2017) was formed under Objective 3 of the GCM/NCD 2016-17 work plan to provide a forum to identify barriers and share innovative solutions and actions for the implementation of the global action plan for the

prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020 and to promote sustained actions across sectors

The Working Group will be co-chaired by the following representatives of two Member States, one from a developed country and one from a developing country, appointed in consultation with Member States:

1. H.E. Ambassador Taonga Mushayavanhu, Permanent Representative to the UNOG, Zimbabwe
2. Mr Kjetil Aasland, Minister Counsellor for Health, Permanent Mission of Norway to the UNOG

Meeting documents and other pertinent documents related to the Working Group are available [here](#).

### **60th Conference on the Status of Women Side-Event hosted by Ghana, ‘Time for Action: Women Mobilizing Against Noncommunicable Diseases’**

The WHO GCM/NCD and the WHO team on Gender Equity and Human Rights recently co-organized together with the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the UN in New York a side-event at the 60<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women, at UN Headquarters in New-York, USA.

The event aimed to raise awareness of and prioritise NCDs as development and human rights challenges among women’s organisations, and call on women to take the lead in advocating on NCDs and integrating NCDs into existing development programmes. Speakers offered their insights on the issue, followed by participant inputs and questions during a plenary debate. The event was well attended, with 110 participants joining together.

The panel of speakers included the Ambassador of Ghana to the UN (Chair), the Minister of Gender, Health and Social Protection of Ghana, leaders of women's leadership organizations, including the CEO of Women Deliver, UN Women, National Geographic, and the Head of the WHO GCM/NCD Secretariat. The call for action for the women's movement to engage on NCDs was well received.

#### **Conclusions and follow up actions from the event:**

- NCDs constitute a threat to development and human rights and disproportionately affect women
- Women should and will engage on NCDs because of the above and given women's capacity as change agents, decision-makers on health in families, and strong advocates.
- An integration and life-course approach to NCDs should be taken.
- In communications on NCDs, focus should shift from the individual NCD victims' sense of guilt to empowerment of NCD victims and a narrative of NCDs as a broader societal and structural problem and a matter of accountability of governments and other stakeholders, including the private sector.

- the WHO GCM/NCD will follow up with a package of information to all participants at the side event, including how to engage in upcoming activities, including the global communications campaign, and how to apply to become participants of the WHO GCM/NCDs.

The WHO GCM/NCD also engaged in a strategy lunch with women’s leaders during the Conference, organised by Soon-Young Yoon, UN main representative for International Alliance of Women in New York. The WHO Executive Director, Dr Natela Menabde was invited to provide a briefing on NCDs. The focus of the lunch was ‘how do NCDs limit women’s rights? And how can we build alliances across social movements and women’s leadership?’

**First WHO Global Meeting of national NCD programme directors and managers and GCM/NCD Stakeholder forum, 15–17 February 2016**

The first [WHO global meeting of national NCD programme directors and managers](#) was held 15-17 February 2016 at WHO Headquarters. Within this conference, the GCM/NCD organised two events intended to aid knowledge-sharing and networking between relevant stakeholders.

An interactive stakeholder networking dinner gave opportunity for National NCD Programme Managers and Directors to hear presentations from participants of the WHO GCM/NCDs on examples of collaborative approaches to strengthen networks. The interactive presentations were supplemented by interviews with local and regional NCD Directors.

Over 94 people attended a networking evening where participants of the WHO GCM/NCD presented examples of collaborative approaches, pathways and strategies to help strengthen local, regional and global networks. Interactive stations focused on topics of governance, prevention, health systems, coordination & integration, access to medicines & technologies, and financing for NCDs. These were supplemented by short interviews with local and regional NCD Directors.

A marketplace breakfast event the following morning served as an opportunity to strengthen new and old connections between attendees, while listening to keynote presentations from NCD Young Professionals Chronic Disease Network, World Economic Forum and NCD Alliance.

Upcoming meetings and events

4-5 April 2016: [First meeting of the WHO GCM/NCD Working Group on including NCDs into existing national health programmes](#)

6-7 April 2016: [First meeting of the WHO GCM/NCD Working Group on aligning international cooperation with national NCD programmes](#)

4 May 2016: Lunch time seminar: Public Private Partnerships and noncommunicable diseases. WebEx invitations to join the sessions online will be available shortly.

6 May 2016: Lunch time seminar: Noncommunicable diseases and the environment. WebEx invitations to join the sessions online will be available shortly.

17-19 October 2016: [WHO GCM/NCD Dialogue on the role of non-State actors in supporting Member States in their national efforts to tackle NCDs as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)

### **Important Links**

- GCM/NCD <http://www.who.int/ncds/gcm/>
- NCD Homepage: <http://www.who.int/ncds/>
- NCD Tools: <http://www.who.int/nmh/ncd-tools/>
- UNIATF: <http://www.who.int/ncds/un-task-force/en/>

The WHO GCM/NCD can be contacted at [gcmncd@who.int](mailto:gcmncd@who.int)

The UNIATF can be contacted at [unnctaskforce@who.int](mailto:unnctaskforce@who.int)

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