

Dear members of the NCD Alliance network,

After a week of extensive discussions and debate, the third round of informal consultations at WHO on the Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020 has concluded. The NCD Alliance was present and engaged throughout the proceedings, including at the informal NGO dialogue and as observers to the Member State consultations. We are pleased to report that Member States and the WHO Secretariat recognised the contributions of NCDA and other civil society organizations as critical partners in the global NCD response.

The consultation covered a lot of ground - including the draft Global Action Plan (GAP), the reporting cycle on NCDs to the UN system, the global coordination mechanism (GCM), and the UN Task Force on NCDs. The WHO presentations from the Member State consultation and [all supporting official documentation are available here](#). **The WHO secretariat will publish a revised version of the GAP on Friday 15 March, which will be open to all stakeholders for comment until 29th March. As the last opportunity to influence the content of the GAP, we urge our network to engage in this final online consultation.**

Below is our unofficial summary of the major discussion points during the Member State consultations and next steps.

Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020:

- **Structure:** No substantive changes to the structure of the GAP. Six objectives remain the same, apart from minor editorial changes. General agreement that GAP needs to be more concise and action-oriented, including vision statement.
- **Scope:** Agreement that the GAP must be universal and applicable for all countries, including low, middle, and high-income countries.
- **Principles:** Changed to rights-based approach; multisectoral action; empowerment of people and communities; universal health coverage including equity and gender dimension; life-course approach; evidence-based strategies; and conflict of interest.
- **Costing:** Costing and resources was discussed at length across the 3 days. WHO presented estimates on GAP costing, including an estimated \$240 million over 2 years for the WHO Secretariat to implement their GAP actions (including establishing a global coordinating mechanism). WHO will develop a detailed Business Plan following the adoption of the GAP.
- **Appendices:** Support for fewer and more concise appendices. Specifically:
 - **Retain appendices 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7**
 - **Appendix 3 and 8 – Priority Actions:** Collapse these appendices into one table. Agreement that this collapsed appendix needs to be a living document so it can be updated as evidence and cost-effectiveness of interventions evolve.
 - **Appendix 5 – Actions for UN Agencies:** Will be evolved by UN Task Force on NCDs into a comprehensive division of labour similar to [the matrix used by UNAIDS](#).
 - **Appendix 6 – Process Indicators:** There was consensus for a set of process indicators that are forward looking and will drive and measure progress for all actors. But more time is needed to develop an improved set of evidence-based indicators. A recommendation on timeline (most likely end of 2013) and process is likely to be presented at the WHA in May.

Global Coordination Mechanism (GCM):

- **Proposals:** WHO presented a more detailed version of the global coordination mechanism (GCM) in [Appendix 4](#) - a model very similar to WHO NCDnet. It is an informal arrangement housed within WHO, that would address the six functional gaps identified in the [UN Secretary-General's report on options for partnership](#). The [UN Road Safety Collaboration](#) was referenced throughout the consultations as a good model for the GCM to replicate. Many elements of the [NCDA proposal](#) for a GCM was also referenced during discussion. WHO estimated it would cost \$5.7 million to implement a GCM between 2013-2015. Sustainable resourcing of the GCM was discussed at length.
- **Schematic:** Due to a lack of consensus on the GCM, it was suggested that Appendix 4 be removed from the GAP. Instead, the next version of the GAP will include more detailed explanation in the text under objective 1 - including goals, principles and functions of the GCM.

UN Task Force on NCDs:

A lunchtime seminar on the UN Task Force on NCDs (UNTF) was held on Tuesday 12th March. Presentations were given by WHO, IAEA, UNDP, and UNAIDS on recent joint UN initiatives, and an overview of the way forward on the UNTF was provided.

- Support for the UNTF to be formalized at ECOSOC this July. Likely that the UN Interagency Task Force on Tobacco Control will be expanded to include all NCDs.
- The UNTF will have strong linkages with the GCM. It will report into ECOSOC, and could provide the vehicle for regular reporting on NCDs to the UN General Assembly.
- Many of the UN initiatives on NCDs and the current efforts underway are summarized in [the report of the most recent UNTF meeting](#).

Reporting Cycle:

A reporting cycle on all elements of the global NCD framework was discussed during the consultation. The following is an outline of the proposed reporting timeline:

- **World Health Assembly:** Progress reports on implementation of GAP in 2015, 2018, and 2020; progress reports on global monitoring framework (GMF) every five years in 2015, 2020 and 2025; and Assessment Reports on the WHO Programme Budget in 2016, 2018 and 2020.
- **United Nations:** UN Secretary-General's Progress Report in 2013 and the comprehensive review and assessment in 2014, as mandated by the Political Declaration.
- **Advocacy:** WHO Global Status Report on NCDs in 2013, 2016 and 2019; and World Health Report, focused on NCDs and Universal Health Coverage, in 2014.

Next steps:

Member States agreed that the GAP should be adopted at the World Health Assembly (WHA) this year. In order to achieve this, the following preliminary timeline was discussed:

- **Online consultation:** The **WHO secretariat will publish a revised version of the GAP on Friday 15 March**, incorporating the changes above. This version will be open for comment by **all stakeholders** via a web-based consultation for 2 weeks.
- **WHA Resolution:** Over the next two weeks, missions in Geneva will be having informal meetings to discuss the WHA resolution on NCDs. It is likely this will take the form an omnibus resolution, incorporating the Global Monitoring Framework (GMF), the GAP and a description of the GCM.

The NCD Alliance is hosting a webinar on **Thursday 21 March**, where we will cover the outcomes of the consultations in more detail. To accommodate all time zones, the first webinar will take place from **10 - 11:30 am CET**. The second webinar, which will cover the same agenda, will be held from **11 - 12:30 am EST // 16:00-17:30h CET**.

Invitations to the webinars have been sent out. If you have not received an invitation by the end of this week and would like to be included, please email us at info@ncdalliance.org

We hope you can join us!

Thank you,

The NCD Alliance