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2018 United Nations High-Level Meeting on NCDs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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 on Thursday, 27 September. 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 has agreed to hold the first UN HLM on TB on Wednesday 26 September. 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, and topics of the UN HLM were decided by the modalities resolution. The development of this resolution was guided by two co-facilitators, the Permanent Representatives to the UN from Uruguay and Italy.

The co-facilitators were appointed by the President of the General Assembly, and led Member States through the negotiations process to agree on the final modalities of the UN HLM. This process took place in March 2018, and the final modalities resolution was adopted on 12 April 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 at the UN Headquarters in New York, and

will likely begin in June 2018. 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.

An interactive civil society hearing will take place on Thursday 5 July at UN Headquarters in New York. This hearing will enable civil society and other stakeholders to share their comments on and priorities for the outcome document of the UN HLM.

Who will attend the 2018 UN HLM on NCDs?

Participation at the UN HLM was decided by the modalities resolution, and includes all Member States at the highest level, Ministers, UN agencies, civil society, philanthropy, academia, private sector, and other relevant stakeholders.

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