

UNGA78 | Towards Achieving Universal Health Coverage: Multistakeholder Gathering on Tackling Noncommunicable Diseases

Breaking boundaries, building bridges through sustainable multisectoral and multistakeholder collaboration

14 September 2023 | 13:00 – 15:00 CEST | Virtual Meeting

Registration & information: bit.ly/multistakeholder-gathering



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Key Messages & Calls to Action

On the occasion of the second annual Gathering of the Global Group of Heads of State and Government for the prevention and control of Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) for the Global NCD Compact, held in the margins of the second UN High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC), WHO, NCD Alliance and the World Diabetes Foundation co-hosted the second Multistakeholder Gathering to Accelerate Action on SDG 3.4 and UHC on 14 September 2023.

This brief assembles key messages, calls to action and inspirational quotes from the gathering to feed into the second annual Gathering of the Global Group of Heads of State and Government for NCDs for the Global NCD Compact.

Theme 1: Governance and leadership for multisectoral and multistakeholder collaboration

 *Involve all sectors in building resilient and adaptable health care systems to the NCD challenges.*



Gaafar Uberbelau, Hon
Minister of Health and
Human Services, Palau

“Our national task force on NCDs comprises numerous government ministries, civil society organizations as well as traditional leaders who have a seat at the table. As we look further upstream with NCDs and their risk factors, we also need to look upstream in our health system and continuously realign and reorganize ourselves to ensure we remain effective in our efforts to remain one step ahead of the NCD crisis.”

 *Provide an enabling environment to enable policy coherence and cooperation across sectors.*



Scott McKeown, Deputy
Director of Public
Health, Tasmania,
Australia

“A strong authorizing environment by the highest elected official in Tasmania, the Premier, was instrumental for enabling multisectoral action on health and wellbeing.”

 *Build capacity on NCD prevention and control across all sectors of government.*



H.E. Dr Isaura Nyusi,
First Lady of
Mozambique

“We should aim at implementing multisectoral actions that we are already know are effective in reducing the burden of NCDs. This includes ensuring adequate technical resources across all governmental sectors and the sustained involvement of civil society organizations and the community.”



Anselm Hennis,
Director, NCD and
Mental Health, PAHO

“I urge all of us to recognise the pivotal role of building capacity for sustained multisectoral action in the prevention and control of NCDs and mental health conditions. It is not just a responsibility. It is an investment in the health and wellbeing in our communities.”




Katie Dain, CEO, NCD
Alliance

“Although NCDs wind up in the health system, their determinants are driven by sectors well beyond the health sector. Achieving policy coherence is an incredibly hard task and leadership at the highest political level is undoubtedly required to push for action and accountability across all sectors of government.”



Bente Mikkelsen,
Director, NCD
Department, UCN,
WHO

“Governments need to build capacity, with leadership from the highest political levels, for the key pillars of multisectoral and multistakeholder collaboration: governance and accountability, data-driven action, leadership at all levels, ways of working, recourses and appropriate funding.”

 *Sustain multisectoral actions over time through formal integration of NCDs into local and national budget allocation mechanisms*



Fabio Medrano, Mayor
of Paipa, Colombia

“We are securing continuity in our actions through the formalization of a municipal agreement whereby health will continue to be integrated in all municipal strategic planning and the fight on NCDs can be done with a long-term view.”

Theme 2: Partnerships for enhancing impact: governments and civil society organizations

 *Involve local practitioners and people living or affected by NCDs in the design of NCD solutions.*



Sumudu Seneviratne,
Consultant Paediatric
Endocrinologist, Centre
for complex hormonal
disorders, Sri Lanka

“Experience of what is happening at the ground level coupled with expertise from the ministry of Education helped us develop highly effective health promoting and self-monitoring tools among young children and empower them as agents of change.”



Heather Koga, Person
with lived experience of
NCDs, Zimbabwe’s
representative to the
International Diabetes
Federation’s Blue Circle
Voices Network

“We call on our governments to subsidize essential medications to increase their affordability to the majority of the people in need and at no cost for people under special vulnerable conditions.”



Bente Mikkelsen,
Director, NCD
Department, UCN,
WHO

“We will not achieve UHC without being inclusive, without paying equitable attention to people living with NCDs. It is the co-creation that will help us to find solutions for preventive action, to manage conditions, and to a strong primary healthcare approach.”



Leverage the technical capacity and expertise from civil society partners.



Bent Lautrup-Nielsen,
Head, Global Advocacy,
World Diabetes
Foundation

“What really matters is the actual progress that we can already see in countries and converge our efforts as the global community to inspire for a wider and accelerated progress of multisectoral and multistakeholder action so that the NCD targets can be achieved worldwide.”



Kaushik Ramaiya, Hon
General Secretary,
Tanzania NCD Alliance

“We do not go to government with a complete programme but rather work together in conceptualizing what can be effectively done. Being reliable and transparent proved to be key to build trust and enable a nationwide expansion of diabetes and NCD clinics.”



Maximize the role of social innovation through collaborations with civil society organizations.



Renata Couto, Executive
Director, Instituto
Desiderata

“While the government has the mandate to act universally, civil society organizations can work with specific groups, test methodologies, and develop social technologies to be scaled up. This strategic way of collaborating can enable us to leapfrog and accelerate action for a more effective response to our problems. We have examples of public policies on childhood obesity reduction that resulted from local initiatives developed initially by civil society organizations.”

Theme 3: Perspectives from governments beyond health



Reframe the public discourse on NCDs to one that speaks to the interest of non-health sectors.



Katie Dain, CEO, NCD
Alliance

“We need to see a tangible shift in attendance and leadership across different government ministries well beyond health attending the High-level Political Meeting in 2025.”



Gauden Galea, Strategic Advisor to the WHO Regional Director for Europe

“A genuine whole of society solution cannot be limited to the next 7 years. We need to look forward to a [world] that is NCD resilient, carbon neutral, secure and at peace. Such a vision will be larger than NCD alone, the health sector alone or one country alone.”



Anneli R. Lontoc, Undersecretary for Road Transport and Infrastructure, Department of Transportation, Philippines

“By embracing and promoting active and public transport, we can improve our health, reduce pollution, and create more inclusive and sustainable communities. It is not just a matter of transportation. It is a matter of public health, environmental stewardship, and a brighter future for all.”



Generate insights from data systems that are embedded in effective collaborations.



Josée Begin, Assistant Chief Statistician, Statistics Canada

“Measuring quality of life in all of its aspects seems like a daunting task – and it is, in many respects. But it is not so daunting when everyone can see themselves as instrumental to a shared goal. We approach our partnership work with humility, and never assume we know best. We know that if our partners do not trust our process, they will not trust our product, and the best way to ensure that trust is through effective collaboration.”



Gauden Galea, Strategic Advisor to the WHO Regional Director for Europe

“We much focus on impact. We need to shift our information systems from NCD tracking and surveillance to analysis and prediction, embracing digitalization and artificial intelligence, and producing reports demonstrating impact, not only process.”

> Read more about the 2023 Multistakeholder Gathering on NCDs and discover the global mapping report on multisectoral action: https://www.knowledge-action-portal.com/en/action/multisectoral_action