



Informal interactive hearing

**with non-governmental organizations, civil society
organizations, the private sector and academia on the
prevention and control of
non-communicable diseases (NCDs)**

19 June 2014

**Trusteeship Council Chamber
United Nations, NY**

Concept note



(Version dated 29 May 2014)

Background

1. Paragraph 65 of General Assembly resolution 66/2 of 19 September, 2011, containing the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), calls for a comprehensive review and assessment in 2014 of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of NCDs.

2. The General Assembly decided in its resolution 68/271 of 13 May, 2014 to convene the comprehensive review and assessment on 10 and 11 July 2014 in order to: (i) take stock of the progress made in implementing the commitments of the 2011 UN Political Declaration on NCDs; (ii) identify and address gaps; and (iii) reaffirm the political commitment in response to the challenge of NCDs. It further decided that the overall theme of the meeting will be “Taking stock of progress in implementing the 2011 UN Political Declaration on NCDs and scaling up of multi-stakeholder and national multisectoral responses to the prevention and control of NCDs, including in the context of the post-2015 development agenda”. It also decided that the high-level meeting will include the adoption of a concise, focused, action-oriented outcome document.

3. The resolution also requested the President of the General Assembly to organize an informal interactive hearing with NGOs, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia to provide an input to the high-level meeting. In accordance with this request, the President of the General Assembly will organize an informal interactive hearing on Thursday, 19 June 2014 in New York. The overall theme of the informal interactive hearing will be “Global Progress, National Action: Moving from commitment to implementation”.

Objectives

4. The hearing will seek views from NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector in response to the following questions:

- What have been the respective contributions to date from NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector in supporting regional and national efforts to implement the 2011 UN Political Declaration on NCDs and attain the nine global targets for NCDs by 2025? Have these contributions been sufficient?
- What have been ways and means of measuring and acknowledging the contributions to date from NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector in support of national efforts to address NCDs and towards attainment of the nine global targets for NCDs? Have these ways and means been sufficient? How can NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector participate in public reporting and accountability frameworks?
- How have NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector demonstrably committed to promoting public health? Have NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector been willing to participate in public reporting and accountability frameworks?
- Which recommendations from NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector could be considered for inclusion in the outcome document to be adopted at the high-level meeting in July 2014?





- What are the best practices and lessons learned from engagement with NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector to address NCDs, health, and development challenges?
- In what ways can multisectoral and intersectoral partnerships be improved in order to accelerate national and regional actions?
- What can be done to expand/improve the capacity of civil society in the response to NCDs, particularly in low- and middle-income countries?
- How are NGOs, civil society, academic institutions, and the private sector prioritizing NCDs in national and global development agendas, looking toward the post-2015?

Participation

5. A wide range of representatives from NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector are expected to attend the informal interactive hearing.
6. A registration process is organized by the NGO Branch of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which will enable NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector to pre-register for the hearing¹.
7. Member States and Permanent Observers are encouraged to attend and participate in, as appropriate, the informal interactive hearing.

Format

8. The President of the General Assembly has proposed the following format for the informal interactive hearing:
 - An **Opening Session** with remarks by the President of the General Assembly. An invitation has been extended to the United Nations Secretary-General and to WHO's Assistant Director-General for NCDs and Mental Health to deliver remarks at the opening session. Featured remarks will be delivered by Sir George Alleyne, Director Emeritus, Pan American Health Organization.
 - **Two consecutive round tables.** H.E. Ms. Bénédicte Frankinet, Permanent Representative of Belgium and H.E. Mr. Courtenay Rattray, Permanent Representative of Jamaica, the co-facilitators appointed by the President of the General Assembly to conduct consultations on the outcome document for the high-level meeting, will each chair one of the round tables. Each round table will be comprised of panelists representing NGOs, civil society organizations, a Member State, the UN system, academic/medical profession, and the private sector. Brief presentations by these participants will be followed by an interactive discussion.
 - There will no pre-determined list of speakers during the round tables.
 - A **Closing Session** will involve the presentation of summaries highlighting the views expressed by participants and attendees during the interactive discussion. The summaries will be presented by the Co-Chairs. Closing remarks will be presented by a representative of civil society.

¹ More information is available at <http://esango.un.org/irene/?page=viewContent&nr=24064&type=8§ion=8>





Outcome

9. The President of the General Assembly will develop a summary of the main outcomes of the informal interactive hearing, which will be circulated to Member States prior to the start of the high-level meeting on 10 July 2014.

Issues to be discussed

10. Round table 1 10:45 a.m.-13:00 p.m.

Enhancing international cooperation for NCDs: Mobilizing domestic, bilateral, regional, and multilateral resources, and building capacities for sustainable human development

Purpose: To seek the views of NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector on their role and responsibilities in (1) supporting national efforts to address NCDs, recognizing the primary role and responsibility of Governments in responding to the challenges of NCDs, and (2) enhancing international cooperation for NCDs. In particular:

- What have been the respective contributions to date from NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector in supporting national efforts to implement the 2011 UN Political Declaration on NCDs and attain the nine global targets for NCDs by 2025? Have these contributions been sufficient?
- What have been ways and means of measuring and acknowledging the contributions to date from NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector in support of national efforts to address NCDs and towards attainment of the nine global targets for NCDs? Have these ways and means been sufficient?
- How have NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector demonstrably committed to promoting public health? Have NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector been willing to participate in public reporting and accountability frameworks?
- Which recommendations from NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector on how to enhance international cooperation for NCDs could be considered for inclusion in the outcome document to be adopted at the high-level meeting in July 2014?

11. Round table 2 – 15:00 -17:30

Mobilizing whole-of-society efforts for NCD prevention and control at national and regional levels: gaps, solutions, innovations and collaborative multisectoral partnerships, and fostering private sector and non-health sector engagement

Purpose: To seek the views of NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector on their role and responsibilities in (1) mobilizing whole-of-society efforts for NCD prevention and control, recognizing the primary role and responsibility of Governments in responding to the challenge of NCDs; and (2) promoting and facilitating international and intercountry collaboration for exchange of best practices in the areas of health-in-all-policies, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, legislation, regulation, health system strengthening and training of health personnel, so as to disseminate learning from experiences of Member States in meeting the NCD challenges. In particular:





- What are the lessons learnt from engaging with NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector in national efforts to mobilize whole-of-society efforts to address NCDs?
- Which recommendations from NGOs, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector on how to mobilize whole-of-society efforts to address NCDs could be considered for inclusion in the outcome document to be adopted at the high-level meeting in July 2014?

Media arrangements

12. Accredited correspondents may cover the informal interactive hearing. The hearing will also be broadcast through a live webcast, which will be publicly accessible at <http://webtv.un.org>

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