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# **MDG's Achievement, New Challenges and Opportunities in Regional Cooperation in health**

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# **Issues for consideration**

- **Countries in the region are facing a double burden of both communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs)**
- **Tackling NCDs are now an additional public health challenge**
- **Sustainable, universal and efficient primary health care systems are essential for closing the gaps and attainment of health MDGs needs**
- **National health policies/solutions need to be reinforced/supplemented with regional cooperation to accelerate progress**

**Deliberate, coherent and innovative regional cooperation central to health MDGs and delivery of high quality health care at affordable costs**

**Three key dimensions of regional cooperation need to be stressed to assure high quality health care at affordable costs nationally**

- **Public health research and development**
- **Production and distribution of medicines and diagnostic equipment**
- **Harmonized trade and investment policies sensitive to public health needs**

- National capacities on research and development needs to be strengthened through pooling of technical, human and financial resources
- Recent UN General Assembly declarations on HIV and NCDs have encouraged alliances and networks for development new medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and technologies
- Good practices such as the Public health research and development such as the African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics Innovation (ANDI) exist which need to be replicated

- Need to retain and expand national drug and diagnostic equipment manufacturing capabilities to meet with the public health needs such as in Pakistan, Bangladesh and India
- While the cost of treatment of HIV/AIDs has dropped considerably, other essential drugs continue to be prohibitive
- Drugs for treatment of diseases such as hepatitis C, breast cancer, diabetes is prohibitive
- Generic alternatives to these drugs would dramatically improve health outcomes
- UN GA on prevention and control of NCDs (September 2011) calls for “increased access to affordable, safe

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