

Report of the first meeting of the
**WHO Technical
Advisory Group
on Diabetes**

**virtual meeting
29–30 September 2021**



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Acronyms and abbreviations

CME	continuous medical education
DOI	declarations of interest
EB	Executive Board
LMICs	low- and middle-income countries
NGOs	nongovernmental organizations
NCD	noncommunicable diseases
TAG-D	WHO Technical Advisory Group on Diabetes
WHA	World Health Assembly
WHO	World Health Organization

Overview

The first meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Diabetes (TAG-D) of the World Health Organization (WHO) was held on 29–30 September 2021. The chairperson, Professor Amanda Adler, welcomed all 12 members¹ of the TAG-D to the virtual meeting.

The objectives and terms of reference of the group were set out in WHO's call for interest.² The nominated members from all six regions of WHO underwent a review of their declarations of interest (DOI) before the meeting. Members comprise experts in the area of diabetes and people living with diabetes.

The meeting constituted the first of several planned meetings and served to introduce the TAG-D members to WHO's work on diabetes and the Global Diabetes Compact.³

The meeting discussed:

1. The Resolution on diabetes (WHA74.4) adopted by the World Health Assembly (WHA), the decision-making body of WHO, in May 2021, and a set of related recommendations to strengthen and monitor diabetes responses within national noncommunicable diseases (NCD) programmes. This included identifying potential populations and health-related goals for diabetes, for example, coverage targets, to submit to the WHO Executive Board for discussion at the 150th WHO Executive Board (EB) whose function is to implement the decisions and policies of the WHA.
2. How to scale up support to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to improve diabetes responses within national NCD programmes.
3. How to improve monitoring and evaluating national diabetes responses.

This report summarizes the discussions and recommendations, and outlines the preliminary components of a workplan for the TAG-D 2021–2022.

¹ See Annex 2.

² <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-experts-technical-advisory-group-on-diabetes>

³ https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/diabetes/gdc_need_to_know_web.pdf?sfvrsn=7a4af558_4&download=true

Summary of day 1 discussions

The TAG-D reviewed its remit and functions, as outlined in its terms of reference:⁴

1. to identify and describe current and future challenges in relation to WHO's work on diabetes;
2. to advise WHO on strategic directions to be prioritized;
3. to advise WHO on the development of global strategic documents; and
4. to propose other strategic interventions and activities for implementation by WHO.

The WHO Secretariat explained the process for experts serving on WHO advisory groups completing DOI. The Secretariat considered that two members of the TAG-D had conflicts of interest that may need to be managed related to topics in future meetings but were not deemed to have conflicts in this first meeting.

TAG-D members introduced themselves and shared their motivations for serving on the TAG and described their visions for WHO's work on diabetes.

Session 1: Introduction to WHO's work on diabetes

The WHO Secretariat introduced TAG-D members to the work of WHO on diabetes,⁵ including a landmark resolution on diabetes adopted at the WHA in May 2021 (WHA74.4). This resolution mandates WHO to develop a set of recommendations to strengthen and monitor diabetes responses within national NCD programmes, including potential coverage targets for diabetes.

The TAG-D welcomed the work of the Organization in developing these recommendations and identifying global targets, which WHO had published as a discussion paper⁶ and solicited comments via a web-based consultation. The WHO Secretariat summarized the feedback received and explained that it was in the process of developing a final draft paper for the 150th WHO EB to consider when it next meets in January 2022.

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