



**Eighteenth meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency
Task Force on the Prevention and Control of
Non-communicable Diseases**

29–31 March 2022

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A. Objectives and participating agencies

1. The eighteenth meeting of the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases was held by videoconference on 29–31 March 2022. Twenty-six Task Force member organizations participated¹. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) co-chaired the meeting.
2. The main objectives of the meeting were:
 - (i) to review progress since the seventeenth meeting of the Task Force (6–8 December 2022);
 - (ii) to receive updates on a range of joint programmes and other workstreams, with a particular focus on tobacco control in order to identify opportunities for further interagency collaboration;
 - (iii) to review and adopt the Task Force Strategy 2022–2025;
 - (iv) to discuss the Global AIDS Strategy 2021–2026 and its implications for Task Force Members;
 - and (v) to discuss opportunities to scale up multisectoral support to countries through UN Country Teams, including through the NCD and Mental Health Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

B. Review of the summary of the seventeenth meeting, update on global events and assignments, and updates from members

3. Members reviewed the summary of the seventeenth meeting of the Task Force and noted that progress has been made across the majority of agreed actions. Members reviewed and agreed on the Task Force Strategy 2022–2025, subject to strengthening the language around human rights.
4. The result of surveys to understand opportunities for building greater support for NCD responses among the senior leadership and governing bodies of Task Force agencies was presented by the Task Force Secretariat as a follow-up action to Recommendation 11 of the mid-point evaluation of the WHO global action plan for the prevention and control of NCDs 2013–2030 (the Task Force and ECOSOC to identify ways in which support for NCDs can be built at senior levels across the United Nations).
5. The Task Force received an update from WHO on global events and assignments since the seventeenth meeting. Participants were also briefed on the upcoming [International Strategic Dialogue on NCDs and Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\), 12th April 2022 in Accra, Ghana](#). The expected outcomes are the launch of the NCD Compact 2020–2030 and the NCD Presidential Council.
6. The following UN agencies provided updates: FAO, IAEA, UNEP, UNICEF, and UNODC. FAO is providing country support on food systems and nutrition and food-based dietary guidelines that often have as a goal the prevention of overweight, obesity and NCDs. In addition, FAO has developed an [evidence platform for agrifood systems and nutrition](#), gathering operational

¹ African Development Bank (AfDB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Development Law Organization (IDLO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Office of Migration (IOM), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Nutrition (UN Nutrition), World Food Programme (WFP), WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Secretariat (WHO FCTC), World Bank, World Trade Organization (WTO), World Health Organization (WHO).

tools and supportive evidence for country support delivered by FAO and other UN agencies and for the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition of the [Committee on World Food Security](#) that also addresses overweight, obesity and NCDs. UNODC highlighted work on quality of services for drug treatment and care, as well as advocacy action to promote provision of health services for illegal drug users, as alternatives to conviction and punishment in the context of the criminal justice system. UNODC, WHO and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) are collaborating to promote access to control medicines, including those used for pain management.

7. UNEP highlighted work around the co-benefits to human health of projects related to climate change and biological diversity, including recommendations to quantify the health benefits of UNEP's environmental interventions and to establish a surveillance and information management system to link environment and public health assessments. UNICEF reported the launch of NCD-related projects focused on children and adolescents in Bangladesh, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Philippines and Zimbabwe.

Actions

Review of actions agreed at the seventeenth meeting

B1. Task Force Strategy, 2022–2025 to be published electronically, with members ensuring widespread dissemination within the agencies, including senior management (and where appropriate at governing body level), with implications of the strategy for the agency concerned.

B2. Task Force Secretariat to establish a small group of Task Force Members to monitor and evaluate the Task Force Strategy, 2022–2025.

B3. Task Force Secretariat to engage with individual agencies to develop ever greater opportunities to highlight the work of the Task Force with their senior management and governing bodies and highlight the need for this in the Task Force's 2022 report to ECOSOC.

Update on global events and assignments

B4. Task Force Members to disseminate the WHO/GCM call for submissions: multisectoral action for the prevention and control of NCDs and mental health conditions.

Update from members

B5. Members to provide a further update at the nineteenth meeting of the Task Force.

C. Tobacco control

8. WHO updated Task Force members around the efforts made to engage with Heads of UN agencies, in order to promote adoption of smoke free policies across UN campuses. UNHCR demonstrated its experience in turning the Geneva campus smoke-free during the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting opportunities, challenges and lessons learned.
9. The FCTC Secretariat discussed opportunities for the implementation of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade of Tobacco Products, and highlighted potential areas of interagency collaboration, including with regard to assistance on tax administration, combating corruption, enhancing transparency in free trade zones, and conducting illicit trade research.
10. WHO, FAO and WFP presented preliminary results of the joint programme around alternative livelihood to tobacco growing, which has been piloted in Kenya. Interagency collaboration and

multisectoral approaches contributed to enabling farmers in Kenya to switch from tobacco plants to iron beans, which led to measurable positive socioeconomic outcomes (i.e. reduced child labour). FCTC Secretariat is currently finalizing a global toolkit to scale up such strategies.

11. The Convention Secretariat presented recent achievements from the joint programme FCTC 2030, including the launch of a number of new tobacco control investment cases and other technical tools to support multisectoral action on tobacco control. Stemming from the analytic work done so far to advocate for greater investments in tobacco control, the joint programme aims at building wider partnerships across the UN to support implementation of relevant multisectoral strategies at country level.
12. Members were informed that the theme for World No Tobacco Day 2022 will be Tobacco Threat to our Environment, focusing on the environmental damage caused by the full cycle of tobacco.
13. Updates were provided on workstreams related to tobacco-free schools and the implementation of the [Model Policy](#).

Actions

Smoke-free UN campus

C1. Identify UN campuses and other priority locations and initiate dialogues to implement relevant smoke free policies. (Convention Secretariat, WHO)

C2. Continue dialogue with UNAIDS Executive Director to implement smoke free policies at the UNAIDS campus. (Convention Secretariat, UNAIDS).

C3. Aim to achieve 100% smoke free UN campus by 2025. (All)

Implementation of the Protocol

C4. Analyse areas of collaboration among interested Task Force members and produce a report to be included in the ECOSOC report in 2023. (Convention Secretariat).

Alternative livelihood for tobacco farmers

C5. Explore areas of collaborations with the thematic working groups on NCDs and nutrition and NCDs and the environment.

C6. Include results and lessons learned from the WHO, FAO and WFP pilot project in Kenya into the alternative livelihood toolkit. (Convention Secretariat (CS)

C7. Explore the opportunity to pilot the toolkit in African countries. (CS, ILO, WHO)

Model Policy

C8. Task Force Members renew commitment to abide by the Model Policy. (All)

C9. Remove it from the list of standing agenda items and regular updates in future Task Force meetings.

FCTC 2030

C10. Promote multisectoral engagement by UN Country Teams for WHO FCTC implementation, particularly in FCTC 2030 project countries. (CS, UNDP)

Tobacco free schools

C11. Explore further collaboration with UNICEF at country level. (WHO, UNICEF)

World No Tobacco Day 2022

C12. Amplify the World No Tobacco Day 2022 campaign and messages. (All)

D. Update on other joint programmes and initiatives

14. Updates were received from the following joint programmes and initiatives that Task Force members are working on: (i) NCD2030; (ii) SAFER; (iii) UN Joint Action on Cervical Cancer; (iv) Global RECAP; and (v) Digital Health for NCDs and mental health. Progress on each of these, along with other joint programmes and initiatives, has been included in this year's report to ECOSOC.

Actions

SAFER

D1. SAFER Secretariat to provide a briefing to interested members of the Task Force to identify entry points to take forward recommendations coming out of SAFER country missions.

Digital health for NCDs and mental health

D2. Task Force Secretariat to provide regular updates with interested members on ongoing work around digital health for NCDs and mental health, including opportunities to share key messages (and tweets) on social media.

E. Lessons learned emerging from WHO-UNDP activities under EU funding

15. Task Force members received a progress update around activities delivered in collaboration between WHO and UNDP at the country level, in the context of the WHO-UNDP joint programme NCD 2030 and aligned with strategic priorities of the WHO-EU Health System Strengthening for Universal Health Coverage Partnership. WHO and UNDP country teams² in 2021 have supported strengthening governance, developing legal and investment frameworks, and forging multisectoral partnerships for NCD and mental health responses, with teams in the regions and headquarters providing ad hoc technical and advocacy support.

16. Activities designed to catalyse national dialogue around NCDs and mental health contributed

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