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ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО

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Date: 20 November 2017

Dr David Sergeenko
Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave.
0119 Tbilisi
Georgia

Dear Sir,

**Health systems respond to NCDs:
the European experience**

**High-level meeting
Sitges, Spain, 16–18 April 2018**

I have the honour to inform you that the WHO Regional Office for Europe will host the above-mentioned regional meeting in Sitges, Spain, on 16–18 April 2018. The meeting is intended as a forum on health systems response to noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) for high-level representatives of the 53 Member States in the European Region, relevant international organizations and selected nongovernmental organizations.

The aim of the high-level meeting is to provide a platform to share country experiences of strengthening health systems for better NCD outcomes, to understand and celebrate successes, and to inspire action for accelerated health system transformation to reduce premature NCD mortality and morbidity. With the contributions of Member States and a network of experts, the Regional Office for Europe has developed an evidence-informed vision of a comprehensive health system response to NCDs, set out in a regional report to be launched at the event. The report and the material to be presented at the meeting are the culmination of five years of multidisciplinary, country-based work in partnership with a number of Member States to achieve improved NCD outcomes through better performing health systems. The scope and purpose and the provisional programme of the meeting are enclosed.

The outcome document of the meeting will contribute to reporting to the United Nations high-level meeting on NCDs in 2018 and will be submitted to the Regional Committee for Europe for consideration at its 68th session in September 2018.

I cordially invite you, together with your most senior technical staff member, to represent your country at the meeting. Participants should represent diverse backgrounds and health system functions to enable a good multidisciplinary dialogue.

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Senior technical nominees could represent:

- senior policy-makers and officials in the Ministry of Health, Finance, Social Protection or Development, other ministries or government departments responsible for overall health system and/or NCD policy;
- senior officials and/or experts in public health agencies with responsibilities for health promotion and prevention related to NCDs;
- senior officials and/or experts in charge of policy, regulation or relations with service delivery organizations, including primary care and specialized care for NCDs;
- senior officials and/or experts in funding and purchasing agencies working towards better contracts and incentives to step up early detection and disease prevention; and
- representatives of national and local governments involved in intersectoral action.

The working languages of the meeting will be English and Russian, and simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

I look forward to receiving your response and completed nomination forms by 15 December 2017. The Regional Office will then communicate directly with the nominated participants for all necessary information and relevant documentation. Please address your reply to the Office of the Regional Director, WHO Regional Office for Europe (email: eubar@who.int).

I look forward to your participation and to a successful meeting in Spain.

Yours very truly,


Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab
Regional Director

Encls:

Scope and purpose
Provisional programme
Nomination form

Copy for information to:

Dr Nino Berdzuli, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, 144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave., 0119 Tbilisi, Georgia
Dr Sofiko Belkania, Head, Executive Department, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, 144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave., 0119 Tbilisi, Georgia
Mr Shalva Tsiskarashvili, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Rue Richard-Wagner 1, CH-1202 Genève, Switzerland
H.E. Mr Gigi Gigiadze, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Georgia, Nybrogade 10, 1st. Floor, 1203 Copenhagen K, Denmark
Mr Niels Scott, United Nations Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme, UN House, 9 Eristavi St., 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia
Dr Marijan Ivanusa, WHO Representative and Head of WHO Office, WHO Country Office, Georgia, 81 Barnov Street, Apt.4, 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia



Health systems respond to NCDs:
the European experience
Sitges, Spain
16–18 April 2018

High-level meeting

28 September 2017
Original: English

NOMINATION FORM

Please return this form by 15 December 2017:
Attn.: Dr. Hans Kluge
Director of Health Systems and Public Health
WHO Regional Office for Europe
Tel: +34 935 462 590; Email: eubar@who.int

NOMINEE 1

Title: _____ (Dr/Ms/Mr/Prof)
First name: _____ Last name: _____
Nationality: _____
Job title: _____
Organization: _____
Department: _____
Address: _____
City/town: _____ State/county: _____
Postal/zip code: _____ Country: _____
Email: _____ Tel.: _____
Mobile: _____

NOMINEE 2

Title: _____ (Dr/Ms/Mr/Prof)
First name: _____ Last name: _____
Nationality: _____
Job title: _____
Organization: _____
Department: _____
Address: _____
City/town: _____ State/county: _____
Postal/zip code: _____ Country: _____
Email: _____ Tel.: _____
Mobile: _____

NOMINEE 3

Title:

(Dr/Ms/Mr/Prof)

First name:

Last name:

Nationality:

Job title:

Organization:

Department:

Address:

City/town:

State/county:

Postal/zip code:

Country:

Email:

Tel.:

Mobile:



**Health systems respond to NCDs:
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Sitges, Spain
16–18 April 2018

High level meeting
/2
28 September 2017
Original: English

Provisional programme

Introduction

The aims of this high-level meeting are:

- to provide a platform to share country experiences of strengthening health systems for better noncommunicable disease (NCD) outcomes;
- to celebrate successes and understand how they were achieved; and
- to inspire action for accelerated health system transformation to reduce premature NCD mortality.

The format of the meeting will include both plenary and interactive sessions.

Plenary session and ministerial panel on a comprehensive and coherent health systems response to NCDs

The objective of the first half day is to put forward a comprehensive health systems response to NCDs and to reflect on its comprehensiveness and coherence.

Specifically, this session will:

- explore what constitutes a comprehensive health systems response to NCDs and how alignment and coherence of policy instruments can be ensured;
- highlight the equity and gender dimensions of health systems transformation for better NCD outcomes, including for those left behind by traditional mainstream approaches;
- consider the ambition of leapfrogging and implementing an accelerated vision of health system transformation for faster reduction in premature NCD mortality; and
- focus not only on the *what* but also on the *how* by ascertaining factors that enable implementation of successful large-scale health system transformation.

Parallel sessions on technical aspects of a comprehensive and coherent health systems response to NCDs

The parallel sessions will be technical in nature and will put forward key policy recommendations in essential areas of health systems strengthening for NCDs based on current evidence, good practices in the WHO European Region, and anticipated innovations.

These sessions will be oriented around the themes and topics of the regional report in a structured participatory manner and will include:

- results and outcome orientation through performance monitoring and feedback provided by the health system;
- governance needs for sustained intersectoral action on NCDs;
- transforming public health agencies to lead health promotion for and prevention of NCDs;
- the role of local governments and communities in NCD prevention, detection and management;
- implementing multi-profile, team-based, integrated primary care to step up early detection and disease management;
- implementing a people-centred approach for NCDs;
- health financing strategies to support health system transformation for a more effective NCD response;
- a fit-for-purpose health workforce for NCD prevention, detection and management;
- access to quality medicines and technologies at the right place and the right time; and
- bridging policy gaps with information solutions.

Interactive panels centred around real country problems and a team-based multidisciplinary problem-solving approach

Real cases from countries will be presented in an interactive format. A panel of experts will debate possible solutions, outlining advantages and disadvantages, with feedback from the Member State putting forward the problem. The audience will be encouraged to participate in the problem-solving exercise and to draw parallels from their own experiences.

Plenary session and Member State panel

This session will focus on the opportunities for action and link the contents of the high-level meeting to the Sustainable Development Goal and universal health care agendas.

The session will:

- reflect on opportunities for action at the global, regional and local levels;
- consider the role of international partners in health systems strengthening; and
- revisit the issue of leapfrogging and what it would require.



**Health systems respond to NCDs:
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Scope and purpose

Background

A comprehensive and coherent health systems response is critical to reducing premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). Strengthening health systems for more effective prevention and treatment of NCDs is central to implementation of Health 2020, the European policy framework for health and well-being, underpins the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, and is closely linked to the achievement of universal health coverage. However, pragmatic and actionable guidance on what constitutes a comprehensive and coherent health systems response to NCDs is not readily available. Over the past five years, the WHO Regional Office for Europe has worked with Member States of the WHO European Region and a network of experts to provide:

- multidisciplinary country support with assessments as entry points in over a dozen countries;
- a series of good practices to highlight effective instruments for health system transformation;
- capacity-building in the form of an annual training programme reaching more than 300 people; and
- various platforms for regional exchange and experience sharing.

Synthesizing and going beyond this country work, the Regional Office for Europe, together with a number of Member States and a network of experts, has developed an evidence-informed vision for a comprehensive and coherent health systems response to NCDs. This vision is set out in a regional report, which will be launched at the high-level meeting.

Objectives and key themes

The meeting and its plenary sessions will:

- present and discuss the health systems vision to respond to NCDs and reflect on its coherence and comprehensiveness;
- highlight the equity and gender dimensions of health system transformation for better NCD outcomes, including for those left behind by traditional mainstream approaches;
- explore the possibility of leapfrogging and implementing an accelerated vision of health system transformation for a faster reduction of premature mortality from NCDs; and
- ascertain factors that enable implementing successful large-scale health system transformation.

The technical sessions will facilitate discussion and experience sharing on a number of technical topics, including:

- results and outcome orientation with performance monitoring and feedback through the health system;
- governance needs for sustained intersectoral action for NCDs;
- transforming public health agencies to lead health promotion for and prevention of NCDs;
- the role of local governments and communities in NCD prevention, detection and management;
- implementing multi-profile, team-based integrated primary care to step up early detection and disease management;
- implementing a people-centred approach for NCDs;
- health financing strategies to support health system transformation for a more effective NCD response;
- a fit-for-purpose health workforce for NCD prevention, detection and management;
- access to quality medicines and technologies at the right place and the right time; and
- bridging policy gaps with information solutions.

Expected outcome

The vision and conclusions of the meeting, in the form of an outcome document, will contribute to reporting to the third United Nations high-level meeting on NCDs, to be held in 2018, and will be submitted to the Regional Committee for Europe for consideration at its 68th session in September 2018.

Target audience

The meeting is intended to be a forum for high-level representatives of the 53 Member States in the European Region, relevant international organizations and selected nongovernmental organizations. Participants will represent a cross-section of health systems and diverse backgrounds to enable cross-discipline dialogue. Expected participants include:

- ministers of health, social protection, finance and development;
- directors of funding/purchasing agencies;
- senior policy-makers and officials in ministries of health, finance or social protection, other ministries and government departments responsible for overall health system and/or NCD policy;
- senior officials and/or experts of public health agencies with responsibilities for health promotion and prevention related to NCDs;
- senior officials and/or experts in charge of policies, legislation or relations with service delivery organizations, including primary care and specialized care for NCDs;
- senior officials and/or experts in funding and purchasing agencies working towards better contracts and incentives to step up early detection and disease prevention;
- representatives of national and local governments involved in intersectoral action; and
- nongovernmental organizations, including those representing patients.