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Nomination of country focal points for the consultation on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator on Access to Medicines

The World Health Organization (WHO) presents its compliments to Member States and Associate Members and has the honour to inform them that WHO is consulting with its Member States to establish and approve the methodology as well as to consult and review the individual country estimates for the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator on Access to Medicines.

WHO, represented by the Department of Essential Medicines and Health Products and in collaboration with the Health Metrics and Measurement cluster and the Department of Health Systems Governance and Financing, is currently developing the methodology and preparing an estimate for the **SDG indicator on Access to Medicines**. This is a multidimensional indicator that combines availability, affordability and quality of 29 medicines for primary health care and that captures medicines for noncommunicable chronic diseases (respiratory, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases), central nervous system, anti-infective medicines, maternal and child health care medicines, palliative care, anaesthetics as well as anti-malarial, -retroviral and -anaemia medicines and that accounts for the differences in demand on these medicines given prevalence of the associated diseases on a national level.

Following the country consultation WHO will launch the systematic estimation, reporting and monitoring of the SDG indicator on Access to Medicines on a cross-country basis starting from January 2019.

As with many other health estimates prepared by WHO, this consultation will be conducted via email with designated persons nominated as focal points. For this consultation, WHO suggests that Member States designate one or two focal point(s) to lead the consultation of the indicator and consequently confirm their approval of the methodology to measure access to medicines within the SDG framework. It is recommended that the focal point has an expertise on access to medicines and its specific components (availability and affordability) as well as is involved in the monitoring and evaluation of policies relevant for the improvement of access to medicines (i.e. pricing policies, supply and procurement policies). It is also recommended that the nominated focal point is familiar with the data sources used to measure components of access to medicines (i.e. SARA and HAI/WHO analysis). Furthermore, the nominated focal point is expected to collaborate with a designated SDG contact person in the National Statistical Office of the individual country.

To ensure accurate and timely development of the methodology, the designation of focal point(s), along with details (official title, affiliation, email address and telephone number), should be sent no later than 13 July 2018 to the Department of Essential Medicines and Health Products via email: **SDGmedicines@who.int**.

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Documentation of methods, data sources, and preliminary estimates (when available) will then be shared by email with the nominated focal point(s) and the designated SDG contact person in the National Statistical Office by the end of July 2018. The country consultation process **will be closed by the middle of September 2018**. Any submissions received after this date may not be considered for the final approval of the methodology designed to estimate the SDG indicator on Access to Medicines.

The World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States and Associate Members the assurance of its highest consideration.

GENEVA, 11 June 2018