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ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО

Head office:
UN City, Marmorvej 51,
DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark
Tel.: +45 45 33 70 00; Fax: +45 45 33 70 01
Email: contact@euro.who.int
Website: <http://www.euro.who.int>

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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.

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