



Non Communicable Diseases

Advocacy Update

from

International Diabetes Federation | International Union Against Cancer | World Heart Federation

A United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on Non-Communicable Diseases



Why an UNGASS?

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are a major cause of poverty, a barrier to economic development, and a neglected global emergency. An UNGASS on NCDs can help change this by raising the profile of NCDs on the global stage, mobilizing the international community to take action, securing the commitment of Heads of State to lead the cross-government effort necessary to reverse the epidemic, and send a clear message to donors and funders. The HIV/AIDS UNGASS held in 2001 resulted in a Heads of State Declaration of Commitment that paved the way for an urgent international response. It also led to the creation of the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, which has raised nearly US 10 billion in development funding for low- and middle-income countries (LMCs).

Progress Update on NCD UNGASS

A briefing for UN Ambassadors was held in New York on 5th February hosted by the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM) announcing their intention to introduce a United Nations General Assembly resolution asking member states to support an UNGASS on NCDs.

Many Heads of Government have supported the call for an NCD UNGASS. Commonwealth Heads of Government from 54 countries issued a statement in November 2009 calling for "a Summit on NCDs to be held in September 2011, under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly, in order to develop strategic responses to these diseases and their repercussions." This statement was supported by Heads of State from two Commonwealth G8 countries, Canada and the UK.

Next Steps

If member states vote in favour of an UNGASS, extensive consultations will be required to define the key asks of the NCD community and ensure that the meeting produces concrete outcomes. Further research will be required in order to estimate the costs of the national interventions needed to successfully address NCDs in LMCs. It will also be critical to ensure that NCD interventions contribute to health systems strengthening within a horizontal rather than a vertical funding approach. Please support the campaign for an UNGASS by encouraging your government representative in New York to vote in favour of the UNGASS resolution.

Inclusion of NCD indicators in the Millennium Development Goals

The omission of NCD indicators in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has been a central barrier to securing donor funding for NCDs. Many donors exclusively fund the health priorities contained within the MDGs despite the fact that NCDs cause 14 million annual premature deaths in LMCs.

The upcoming MDG Review Summit taking place 20-22 September at the 65th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York will be a key opportunity for the NCD community to advocate for inclusion of NCDs in the development agenda and for the addition of NCD indicators to the MDGs.

This meeting will also be an opportunity to position NCDs as a core development issue for inclusion in the 2015 MDG successor goals. By working together to secure the support of Heads of State, the NCD community can position NCDs as a core development issue requiring a coordinated global response and ensure that NCDs are included on the agenda at the MDG Review Summit.

Key NCD Resources

DIABETES

International Diabetes Federation:
www.idf.org

CANCER

International Union Against Cancer
www.uicc.org

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

World Heart Federation:
www.worldheart.org

CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASES

Global Alliance Against Chronic Respiratory Disease
www.who.int/respiratory/gard/
International Union Against TB and Lung Disease
www.theunion.org

TOBACCO

Framework Convention Alliance
www.fctc.org

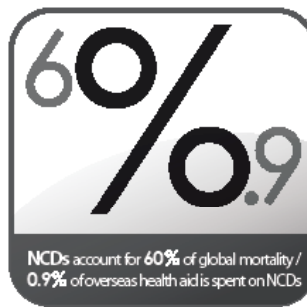
OBESITY

International Association for the Study of Obesity
www.iaso.org

WHO NCD Network

www.who.int/ncdnet
www.who.int/nmh/en

Essential NCD Medicines in low- and middle- income countries



Millions of people with NCDs in LMCs are dying prematurely or suffering life threatening complications because they cannot access affordable and essential NCD medicines. Many of these life saving medicines, such as aspirin and metformin, are proven to work and cost

just cents to produce. We have the medicines and the technologies to save lives but international funding is not available in LMCs. Funding for NCD medicines is critical for both treatment and prevention. Simple medicines given early can prevent or delay the onset of many NCDs and prevent secondary complications that cost lives, throw families into destitution and impose huge costs on vulnerable health systems.

A recent survey showed that only 0.9% of the US\$22 billion spent on health by international aid agencies in LMCs is spent on NCDs, despite NCDs forming 60% of the burden of disease in those countries. International aid agencies must listen to governments in LMCs who are saying loud and clear that they need both financial and technical assistance to turn around the NCD epidemic that threatens to undo development gains.

Upcoming Events

<input type="checkbox"/> UN Commission on Population and Development (CPD) Meeting	12-16 April New York
<input type="checkbox"/> Danish International Development Assistance (Danida) Conference on NCDs	15-16 April Copenhagen
<input type="checkbox"/> 63 rd World Health Assembly	17-31 May Geneva
<input type="checkbox"/> ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review Theme: "Gender equality and the empowerment of women"	28 June - 2 July New York
<input type="checkbox"/> UN Annual DPI/NGO Conference Theme: "Global Health"	30 Aug. - 1 Sept. Melbourne
<input type="checkbox"/> MDG Review Summit 65 th Session of the UN General Assembly	20-22 September New York
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd World Health Summit	10-13 October Berlin

WHF/IDF/UICC JOINT COMMITMENT TO WHO NCDNet:

WHF, IDF and UICC support NCDnet goals and the WHO Action Plan for NCDs by

- leading a joint civil society campaign to have NCDs recognised as a serious global epidemic disproportionately affecting the poor
- mobilizing the voice and expertise of our 730 member associations to link global advocacy with diverse national needs and priorities
- providing the evidence and arguments for allocating increased resources to NCD treatment and prevention
- sharing information and good practice on the integration of NCDs into health systems, particularly at primary health care level