

WHO intervention : UN Inter Agency Task Force for the Prevention and control of NCDs

ECOSOC Management Segment : 29 July 2025

Excellencies, colleagues, and friends,

It is a privilege to address you today on behalf of the World Health Organization, which hosts the Secretariat of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on NCDs.

2025 is a critical year for our collective response to non-communicable diseases, mental health and wellbeing, with the Fourth High-Level Meeting taking place on the twenty-fifth of September.

As you are all aware, negotiations continue towards finalizing the political declaration.

The UN Secretary General's progress on the prevention and control of NCDs and the promotion of mental health and well-being issued in January this year, along with the report that you have in front of you from the Task Force, remind us of the scale of the impact of these conditions, the challenges we face, but also the tools we have available to us to make a real difference.

This year's report from the Task Force yet again highlights the importance of the UN system providing timely, effective and efficient support to Member States. The report describes a wide range of actions that have been undertaken by the Task Force and its members over the last year.

I wish to draw your attention to two recommendations for ECOSOC Member States that are in the Task Force's report:

- First, the need for *the Task Force to scale up support to Member States to implement the WHO Acceleration Plan to Stop Obesity, and work with development partners, civil society and the private sector to mobilize resources for implementation of the national acceleration roadmaps to stop obesity.*
- Second, that the Task Force should *advocate for greater multisectoral action for the prevention and control of chronic respiratory diseases, which is too often neglected and under-resourced, including through integration with primary health care and by reducing behavioural and environmental risk factors.*

This year's report describes the results of a joint independent evaluation on the work of the Task Force.

Allow me to quote from the evaluation report.

The Task Force is *'an effective coordination mechanism and an exemplar of the UN working as one'*, with *'high demand from both Member States and UN agencies'* and *'has played a key role in integrating and promoting NCDs in global health agendas'*.

The Task Force *'contributes to building synergies among UN agencies on NCDs through working groups, joint programmes and the Health4Life Fund'* with the Secretariat being *'highly effective in convening Task Force members and coordinating its activities.'*

To support preparations for the Fourth High-Level Meeting, the Task Force has published three calls to action that take into account the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation. One on the Task Force itself, a second on the Health4Life Fund and a third on national NCD and mental health investment cases.

These calls to action are available on the Task Force website and I encourage you to review them.

I want to emphasize that the Task Force is the only UN mechanism fostering a system wide response to the prevention and control of NCDs, and serves all member states in its normative and country level work.

Lastly, the Task Force and Health4Life Fund Secretariats express their deep appreciation to the many Member State and other partners for their financial support and commitment. In this regard I acknowledge the European Union, the Gulf Health Council, Italy, Mauritius, Philippines, the Russian Federation, Scottish Government and UNICEF USA, WHO Foundation

Thank you.