

## **DRAFT SUMMARY**

### **Informal Briefing for Missions in New York**

#### **2018 UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs**

Wednesday 2 May | 11:00 – 12:30pm

*Co-hosts: Permanent Missions of Brazil, Denmark, Jamaica, and the Russian Federation, World Health Organization, NCD Alliance*

On 2 May the Permanent Missions of Brazil, Denmark, Jamaica, and the Russian Federation, together with the World Health Organization and NCD Alliance hosted a briefing for missions in New York in the lead up to the 2018 High Level Meeting (HLM) on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs). In attendance were delegates from numerous missions and observers including those from the USA, India, Norway, China, UAE, Sweden, Jordan, Antigua, Germany, South Africa, Denmark, Israel, Thailand, Singapore, Italy, Uruguay, Barbados, Jamaica, Russia, Canada, the Netherlands, Japan, Liberia, Morocco, EU, and Holy See, as well as colleagues from OPGA, UNAIDS, UNDP, and IFRC, among others.

H.E. Mr Courtenay Rattray, PR of **Jamaica** delivered opening remarks, speaking of the historic first HLM on NCDs in 2011 and calling NCDs a “challenge of epidemic proportions”. He called for multistakeholder participation through partnership, while adopting a “whole of government” approach. Sharing examples of what his country is doing at the national level, such as their “Jamaica moves” campaign and committed government efforts against sugary drinks, he stressed that prevention must be at the cornerstone of any NCD initiative. As a number of CARICOM missions in NY have limited capacity to handle health issues, the PR mentioned the importance of support from agencies like WHO who will provide an expert to support these countries given their strong commitment to health and NCDs.

H.E. Mr Frederico Meyer, DPR of **Brazil**, a country which is a strong health champion and will be chairing the Global Health and Foreign Policy Resolution this year on behalf of the Oslo Group, emphasised that although progress has been made, it is still inadequate, and in this regard he pledged his country’s full engagement during the upcoming HLM negotiations and to fight NCDs as a whole.

H.E. Mr Peter Lehmann Nielsen, DPR of **Denmark** spoke of more political awareness and commitment, particularly stressing the need for more resource mobilisation, as this year presents a major opportunity to elevate NCDs to the highest political level. Having just hosted a Global Dialogue with WHO on NCDs and Financing in Copenhagen this past April, he stated that sustainable financing and including alternative sources like the private sector will be key to meet targets.

H.E. Mr Sergey Kononuchenko, DPR of the **Russian Federation** mentioned the first Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy lifestyles and NCDs in 2011 in Moscow, as well as noting Russia’s \$1million contribution to the work of UNDP and WHO. Sharing the efforts his country is making at the national level, he cited early detection of malignant tumours, increasing cancer survival rates, and the prevention of cancer in children. He also spoke of their focus in four areas: policy development, epidemiological surveillance, prevention, and integration management of NCDs.

Mr Werner Obermeyer, Deputy Executive Director, **WHO Office at the UN** also provided introductory remarks and emphasised that 2018 is an important year for health due to NCDs and TB HLMs, but also as it is a stepping stone for the UHC meeting in 2019. As such, he stated that “it is time we put people at the center of health systems” and that WHO is working to promote health, keep the world safe, and serve the most vulnerable. He then provided a more technical presentation to give a snapshot of the current global situation on the NCD burden and country responses, explaining that we are not on track in

reaching the NCD targets as the downward trend is not enough. As well, these growing diseases, many of which are preventable and are influenced by social and environmental factors, do not just affect the poor, but issues such as mental health disorders are rapidly increasing and touch all nations. As a result, national capacities need to improve and a lack of targeted assistance needs to be addressed.

H.E. Mr František Ružička, Chef de Cabinet, **Office of the President of the General Assembly** outlined the process towards the NCD HLM in September, including the negotiations for the Outcome Document which still start in June, as well as towards the July 5<sup>th</sup> civil society hearing which they will convene and will include a number of other stakeholders from private sector to philanthropic foundations. Stressing that the PGA is fully committed to advancing health issues in particular UHC, NCDs, and TB, he noted it is also important to ensure middle and lower income countries are involved.

H.E. Mr Elbio Rosselli, PR of **Uruguay**, who together with Italy, facilitated the modalities resolution negotiations, stated his commitment to continue to keep the utmost level of transparency and accessibility during the upcoming Declaration negotiations, which he hopes produces an action-oriented document, and cited his own country's efforts against NCDs such as fighting tobacco and related industry interference.

Dr Ophira Ginsburg, NYU, on behalf of the **Union for International Cancer Control** spoke of the importance of early detection and prevention in fighting cancer, and with regards to NCD advocacy, mentioned the UICC online tool of the [Global Cancer Commitments Navigator](#). Emphasizing that eliminating cancer should be a priority as it yields enormous social and economic benefits: the return on investment for \$11billion in LMICs would save \$100billion in treatment costs, and with cervical cancer in 50 lower resources countries, investing \$3billion over 10 years with HPV vaccinations and screenings would save 3.5 million lives and 22million DALYs. She also noted that 19 May 2018 they will host a Ministerial roundtable on cervical cancer during WHA.

Ms Priya Kanayson, Senior Advocacy Officer, **NCD Alliance**, delivered a powerpoint presentation demonstrating that NCDs is not only a challenge but great opportunity for sustainable development and that we need stakeholders from beyond the health sector to make progress, and also delivered findings from The Lancet Taskforce on NCDs and economics reports on the effects of fiscal policies like taxation which in fact can benefit the poor. She also shared the NCD Alliance's six campaign priorities for the UN HLM on NCDs.

H.E. Mr Sebastiano Cardì, PR of **Italy** delivered closing remarks, repeating the UNSG's message that we cannot take over health with a silos approach and must view with an overarching structure. With regards to the HLM on NCDs, issues such as sustainable production, nutrition and a balanced diet, and mental health will be key elements this year, and we need more emphasis on other connected dimensions like including air pollution as a risk factor, and mental health as one of the burdens.