

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

ECOSOC/UNESCWA/WHO Western Asia Ministerial Meeting
*“Addressing noncommunicable diseases and injuries:
major challenges to sustainable development in the 21st century”*
(Hosted in Doha by the Government of Qatar, 10-11 May 2009)

Day One

- 8:30 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 a.m. **Opening: Setting the stage for multi-sectoral action on public health**
Welcoming remarks:
H.E. Abdullah bin Khalid Al Qahtani, Minister of Public Health, Qatar
Opening remarks:
Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, President, United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
Mr. Bader Al-Dafa, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)
Mr. Thomas Stelzer, Assistant-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
Dr. Hussein A. Gezairy, Regional Director, World Health Organization (WHO), Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean
- 9:50 a.m. **Agenda and aims of the meeting:**
Dr. Ala Alwan, Assistant Director-General, Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, WHO
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. **Panel 1 - The global and regional magnitude of noncommunicable diseases and injuries and their impact on socio-economic development and poverty reduction strategies**
For discussion:
- Why are governments concerned about the magnitude and trends of noncommunicable diseases and injuries and their impact on socio-economic development in Western Asia?
 - To what extent do underlying determinants (poverty, globalization, urbanization and population aging) affect the burden of noncommunicable diseases in Western Asia?
 - How prepared are countries in the Region in integrating diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory diseases and injuries into their

national health development plans?

Panelists:

Dr. Ala Alwan, Assistant Director-General, Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, WHO

Dr. Haifa Madi, Director, Health Protection and Promotion, Eastern Mediterranean Region, WHO

Dr. Abdulrahman Musaiger, Director, Arab Centre for Nutrition Studies, Bahrain

Dr. Etienne Krug, Director, Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability, WHO

Moderator:

Dr. Ala Alwan, Assistant Director-General, Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, WHO

12:15 p.m. **Panel 2 - Addressing common modifiable risk factors for noncommunicable diseases**

For discussion:

- Does increased exposure to risk factors in Western Asia merit greater policy attention than in the past?
- What evidence-based, cost-effective prevention and control interventions exist to help governments address this rising burden of disease?
- What are the challenges for Member States and WHO in addressing risk factors and implementing the Global Strategy on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases and its 2008-2013 Action Plan?

Panelists:

Dr. Yousef Al Nisf, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Health, Kuwait

Dr. Douglas Bettcher, Director, Tobacco Free Initiative, WHO

Dr. Fiona Adshead, Director, Chronic Diseases and Health Promotion, WHO

Dr. Ibtihal Fadhil, Regional Advisor, Noncommunicable Diseases, Eastern Mediterranean Region, WHO

Moderator:

(TBD)

1:30 p.m. Lunch

2:30 p.m. **Panel 3 - Integrating the care of noncommunicable diseases into primary care**

For discussion:

- How can countries reorient and strengthen health systems to enable them to respond more effectively and equitably to the health-care needs of people with noncommunicable diseases?
- How can countries implement and monitor cost-effective approaches for the early detection of breast and cervical cancers, diabetes, hypertension and other heart disease?
- How can countries strengthen human resources capacity, improve training of physicians, nurses and other health personnel and establish a continuing education programme at all levels of the health-care system, with a special focus on primary health care?

Panelists:

Dr. Ali Jaffar, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Health, Oman

Dr. Tawfiq Al-Khoja, Secretary-General GCC Health Ministers Council

Executive Office, Saudi Arabia

Dr. Shanthi Mendis, Coordinator, Chronic Diseases Prevention and Management, WHO

Dr. Nabil Kronful, Professor, Faculty of Health and Sciences, University of Beirut, Lebanon

Moderator:

Dr. Ali Jaffar, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Health, Oman

3.45 p.m

Panel 4 - Challenges and opportunities to address injuries

For discussion:

- Which key operational issues must be addressed to scale up injury prevention efforts in countries in Western Asia?
- How can countries and partners in Western Asia forge a consensus on the “big picture” issues that drive and sustain political commitment to investing in injury prevention?
- What are the challenges and opportunities for countries and WHO in establishing and strengthening the provision of trauma and emergency care?

Panelists:

Dr. Jaffar Hussain, Regional Adviser, Health Promotion and Injury Prevention, WHO

Dr. Adnan Hyder, Associate Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA/Pakistan

Dr. Etienne Krug, Director, Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability, WHO

Moderator:

Dr. Fawzi Amin, Adviser, Ministry of Health, Bahrain

5:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourns (first day)

Day Two

8:30 a.m. **Panel 5 - Multi-stakeholder approaches to meet the challenges of noncommunicable diseases and injuries.**

For discussion:

- What is the role of the Ministries of Planning, Agriculture, Food Security, Social Affairs, Education, Industry, Justice, Transport and Finance, civil society and the private sector in the reduction of noncommunicable diseases and injuries?
- The Global Strategy on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases and its 2008-2013 Action Plan calls for multi-stakeholder approaches. How can key government planning, finance, and economics staff be oriented towards prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and injuries, building commitment and support in Ministries of Planning and Finance?
- How can multi-stakeholder action be mobilized to prevent injuries, particularly road traffic injuries, and what have been the results?
- How can communities be mobilized and empowered to prevent and control noncommunicable diseases?

Panelists:

Dr. Rowaida Al-Maaitah, Member of the Senate, Former Minister of Social Development, Jordan

Mr. Wahid Al Kharusi, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oman

Dr. Fiona Adshead, Director, Chronic Diseases and Health Promotion, WHO

Mr. Nejjib Friji, Director, United Nations Information Centre (for Bahrain, Qatar and UAE)

Mr. Abdul Hussein Shaban, Chairman, Human Rights Network of Iraq

Moderator:

Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Awadi, Former Minister of Health, Kuwait

10:30 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. **Panel 6 - New initiatives to address noncommunicable diseases and injuries**

For discussion:

- What are some broad guidelines for determining the role of the public sector, civil society and the private sector in relation to preventing and controlling noncommunicable diseases and injuries in Western Asia?

- How can development assistance be directed at scaling up affordable and effective interventions to prevent and control noncommunicable diseases and injuries?
- To what extent can an emphasis on primary care, whether in the public or private sector, provide better value for money?

Panelists:

Ms. Akiko Maeda, Manager, Health, Nutrition and Population Sector, World Bank

Dr. Shahryar Sheikh, President, World Heart Federation, Pakistan

Dr. Martin Silink, President, International Diabetes Federation, Australia

Mr. Mohammed Belhocine, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP, Tunisia

Dr. Etienne Krug, Director, Violence and Injury Prevention and Disability, WHO

Ms. Christy Feig, External Consultant, International Communications

Moderator:

(TBD)

12:30 p.m. **Discussion on key messages to be delivered to the Economic and Social Council and next steps to be taken in the region**

1:30 p.m. Lunch

2:30 p.m. **Closing Session**

Closing statements:

Dr. Ala Alwan, Assistant Director-General World Health Organization (WHO)

Mr Thomas Stelzer, Assistant-Secretary-General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

Mr Bader Al-Dafa, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)

Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, President, United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

H.E. Abdullah bin Khalid Al Qahtani, Minister of Public Health, Qatar

3:30 p.m. Meeting adjourns