



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
2 August 2024

2024 session

Agenda item 12 (d)

**Coordination, programme and other questions: prevention
and control of non-communicable diseases**

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 23 July 2024

[on a proposal considered in plenary meeting ([E/2024/L.22](#))]

2024/17. United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions [2013/12](#) of 22 July 2013, [2014/10](#) of 13 June 2014, [2015/8](#) of 9 June 2015, [2016/5](#) of 2 June 2016, [2017/8](#) of 7 June 2017, [2018/13](#) of 2 July 2018, [2019/9](#) of 7 June 2019, [2020/22](#) of 22 July 2020 and [2021/27](#) of 22 July 2021 and its decisions 2022/355 of 22 July 2022 and 2023/349 of 25 July 2023 on the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases,

Recognizing that many countries still face significant challenges in the implementation of their commitments related to non-communicable diseases, remaining deeply concerned that the burden of non-communicable diseases continues to rise in developing countries, and expressing grave concern that the huge human and economic cost of non-communicable diseases contributes to poverty and inequities and threatens the health of peoples and the development of countries,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which includes non-communicable disease-related targets, including reducing by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by 2030 through prevention and treatment, and promoting mental health and well-being, as well as support for research and development of vaccines and medicines, and recalling the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,¹ which noted the enormous burden that non-communicable diseases place on

¹ General Assembly resolution [69/313](#), annex.



developed and developing countries, and that these costs are particularly challenging for developing countries,

Recalling the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on universal health coverage, held in New York on 21 September 2023, and reaffirming its political declaration, entitled “Universal health coverage: expanding our ambition for health and well-being in a post-COVID world”,² which called for the further strengthening of efforts to address non-communicable diseases, including cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, as well as mental health conditions, as part of universal health coverage,

Underscoring the fact that global health is a long-term objective which is national, regional and international in scope and requires sustained high-level commitment and closer international cooperation to support the efforts of Member States to achieve health goals, including those related to non-communicable diseases,

Acknowledging that the global burden and threat of non-communicable diseases, principally cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes, which are linked to one or more of the modifiable risk factors, namely, tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity, as well as air pollution, as the largest environmental risk factor, and other risk factors contributing to non-communicable diseases, but also the considerable burden of mental health conditions and neurological conditions, constitutes one of the major challenges for development in the twenty-first century, which undermines social and economic development throughout the world and threatens the achievement of internationally agreed development goals,

Noting that the non-communicable disease-related targets included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are linked to the impact of social, economic and environmental determinants, including air, soil and water pollution, exposure to chemicals, efforts to ensure road safety, promoting healthy diets and improving nutrition, as well as to broader determinants of health,

Recalling the World Health Organization global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030,³ and acknowledging that increasing physical activity and reducing sedentary behaviour can contribute to broader efforts to prevent and control non-communicable diseases and improve mental health,

Noting the progress made by the Task Force over the past 10 years in the execution of its mandate, including joint programming missions to an increasing number of countries and global joint programmes and thematic working groups that contribute to 30 targets of 12 Sustainable Development Goals, and that its work has a significant positive impact on national multisectoral non-communicable disease and mental health responses and development plans and policies, strengthening health systems and the empowerment of individuals, including for better health literacy,

Welcoming the operationalization of the United Nations Health4Life Fund to Catalyse Country Action for Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health to accelerate action towards the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and the promotion of mental health,

Noting the progress achieved by the Task Force in supporting Member States in the provision of access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines, diagnostics and other health technologies, including assistive technology, for

² General Assembly resolution 78/4, annex.

³ See World Health Organization, document WHA71/2018/REC/1, resolution 71.6.

non-communicable diseases and mental health, as well as in supporting countries in providing digital health programmes,

Welcoming the progress that the Task Force makes through joint inter-agency efforts to promote public health and foster the achievement of non-communicable disease-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as through partnerships and alliances, when applicable, for the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases,

Welcoming also the financial and in-kind support provided by Member States and international development partners for the work of the Task Force,

Noting with concern the continued shortage of resources available to enable the Task Force to maximize its impact in providing timely and effective specialized technical assistance to Member States,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Director General of the World Health Organization on the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases⁴ and the recommendations contained therein, including to report to the Economic and Social Council in 2024 on progress made in implementing Council resolution 2013/12 and the 2023 report of the Director General that described the progress of the Task Force over the past 10 years;

2. *Commends* the Task Force for its activities aimed at supporting Member States in the achievement of the non-communicable disease-related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;⁵

3. *Requests* the Task Force to further support Member States in their efforts to address the burden of non-communicable diseases, including health promotion and disease prevention, maintaining essential health-care services and their timely delivery, providing evidence-based digital health programmes, promoting research and development of and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable diagnostics, therapeutics, essential medicines, vaccines and other health technologies, inter alia, through various related initiatives, as well as through strengthening health systems, including regulatory frameworks and good supply chain management, and through primary health care, as appropriate, paying particular attention to the needs of people living with or at risk of developing non-communicable diseases, in particular those in vulnerable situations;

4. *Calls upon* the members of the Task Force to continue to work together to identify additional technical resources to enhance their support to Member States in line with the Task Force strategy for 2022–2025;

5. *Also calls upon* the members of the Task Force to support Member States in scaling up digital health interventions, for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases and the promotion of mental health and well-being;

6. *Encourages* members of the Task Force, within their respective mandates, to continue collaboration among each other and to support Member States, upon their request, in promoting improved nutrition, healthy diets and lifestyles;

7. *Requests* the Task Force to continue to strengthen inter-agency work and communication, including by engaging with relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to achieve public health goals;

⁴ E/2024/57.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

8. *Calls upon* the Task Force and its members, within its mandate, to support, upon request, the capacity of Member States for improved regulatory, fiscal and legal frameworks that promote favourable health outcomes for non-communicable diseases and mental health;

9. *Calls upon* bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as other stakeholders, including philanthropic foundations, civil society and the private sector, as appropriate, to mobilize human and financial resources for the programmatic work of the Task Force, including through the Health4Life Fund;

10. *Encourages* members of the Task Force, as appropriate and in line with their respective mandates, to support Member States that are parties to the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control⁶ and the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products in their national capacities and efforts to implement the Framework Convention, as well as to continue to develop and implement their own policies on preventing tobacco industry interference, including those related to novel and emerging tobacco products, bearing in mind the model policy for agencies of the United Nations system on preventing tobacco industry interference, in order to ensure consistent and effective separation between the activities of the United Nations system and those of the tobacco industry;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its 2025 session on progress achieved in implementing resolution 2013/12, under the sub-item entitled “Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases” of the item entitled “Coordination, programme and other questions”, taking note of the discussion on the periodicity of the consideration of the sub-item.

*37th plenary meeting
23 July 2024*

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2302, No. 41032.