

Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly,

Reaffirming WHO's Constitution, which states that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition;

Reaffirming also United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015), entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the General Assembly adopted the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, recognizing that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and envisaging a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want, a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity that includes equitable and universal access to health care and social protection, and where physical, mental and social well-being are assured;

Reaffirming United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/313 (2015) on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementing targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to addressing the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity;

Recognizing the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals in galvanizing collective action at global level for better health outcomes, in particular in meeting global targets for HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria, and in reducing child mortality by 53% and maternal mortality by 44%, reductions which are cause for celebration, despite being short of the targets of the Goals;

Recalling resolutions WHA66.11 (2013) and WHA67.14 (2014) on health in the post-2015 development agenda which point to the importance of health in meeting broader sustainable development goals and the need for accelerated progress towards the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals;

Recognizing the importance of the numerous WHO strategies and action plans relating to health, health systems, and public health as useful tools in taking forward the work on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and stressing that the Organization's support to countries in implementing these strategies should be provided in a coherent way, aligned to national needs, contexts and priorities, and in efficient coordination with other United Nations agencies;

Recognizing also the opportunity provided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for adopting a more integrated and multisectoral approach to health, health promotion and well-being that acknowledges health systems as a coherent entity made up of functions and services rather than a series of discrete disease- or subject-specific initiatives;

Recognizing further that universal health coverage implies that all people have access without discrimination to nationally determined sets of the needed promotive, preventive, curative, palliative, and rehabilitative essential health services, and essential, safe, affordable, effective, and quality medicines and vaccines, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a special emphasis on the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized segments of the population;¹

Recognizing that health workers and the public health workforce are integral to building strong and resilient health systems that contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

Recalling resolution EBSS3.R1 (2015) on Ebola, in which the Executive Board recognized the urgency for all countries of having strong, resilient and integrated health systems capable of fully implementing the International Health Regulations (2005), and of having the capacity for health-related emergency preparedness and progress towards universal health coverage that promotes universal, equitable access to health services and ensures affordable, good-quality service delivery;

Recognizing the importance of strengthening health systems and building capacities for broad public health measures, health protection and promotion and work to tackle social, economic, and environmental determinants of health, in support of ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages;

Recalling further the importance of fostering alignment and coordination of global health interventions in the area of health systems strengthening, including at the primary health care level, and recognizing the important role WHO should play in this regard;

Taking note of the significant infrastructure, assets and human resources of the global polio eradication initiative, and the ongoing legacy process across countries as appropriate;

Emphasizing the need for community engagement to focus attention on more rational and forward-looking integration of health workers at community level into functional health systems aligned with country objectives and actions, and on recognizing them as key players to extend and deliver basic health services directly to communities to achieve the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Goals

Reaffirming that the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are integrated and indivisible, balance the three dimensions of sustainable development (the economic, social, and environmental), seek to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, are global in nature and universally applicable, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policy space and priorities;

¹ See resolution WHA67.14 (2014).

Welcoming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including inter alia Sustainable Development Goal 3, “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”, and reaffirming its specific and interlinked targets as well as other health-related Goals and targets and emphasizing the importance of health systems strengthening as it is critical to the achievement of all targets;

Reaffirming also the specific commitments to promoting physical and mental health and well-being, and to extending life expectancy for all, contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including: achievement of universal health coverage and access to quality health care; ensuring that no one is left behind; acceleration of the progress made to date in reducing newborn, child and maternal mortality by ending all such preventable deaths before 2030; universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education; ending the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as well as acceleration of the fight against hepatitis, Ebola and other communicable diseases and epidemics, including by addressing growing antimicrobial resistance and the problem of neglected tropical diseases affecting developing countries; and prevention and treatment of noncommunicable diseases, including behavioural, developmental and neurological disorders, which constitute a major challenge for sustainable development;

Asserting that health is not just an end in itself, but is a means of reaching other targets under the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and noting that investments in health contribute to sustainable, inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection, and the eradication of poverty and hunger, and to reducing inequality, and also acknowledging the reciprocal benefits between the attainment of the health Goal and the achievement of all other Goals;

Reaffirming the Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property;¹

Means of implementation

Recognizing also that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, can be met within the framework of a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development, supported by the concrete policies and actions outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and which supports, complements and helps contextualize the 2030 Agenda’s means of implementing targets, including its Technology Facilitation Mechanism, and which relates to domestic public resources, domestic and international private business and finance, international development cooperation, international trade as an engine for development, debt and debt sustainability, addressing systemic issues and science, technology, innovation and capacity building, and data, monitoring and follow-up;

Reiterating that the means of implementation of the targets under Sustainable Development Goal 17 and under the other Sustainable Development Goals are key to realizing the Agenda and are of equal importance with the other Goals and targets, and also reaffirming targets 3a, 3b, 3c and 3d, as well as other interlinked targets essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

Reaffirming that the scale and ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires a revitalized global partnership for sustainable development to mobilize the necessary means to ensure its implementation, noting that this partnership will work in a spirit of global solidarity, in

¹ Adopted in resolutions WHA61.21 (2008) and WHA62.16 (2009).

particular solidarity with the poorest and with people in vulnerable situations, and that it will facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of implementation of all the Goals and targets, bringing together governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing all available financial and non-financial resources;

Follow-up and review

Recalling paragraph 48 of United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1¹, to assist governments in their follow-up and review of the Goals and targets, including the means of implementation, and affirming the health sector's commitment to contributing to and supporting that process, in particular the commitment to strengthening statistical capacities in developing countries;

Recognizing that the High-level Political Forum under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council will have the central role in overseeing, follow-up and review at the global level,

1. URGES Member States:¹

(1) to scale up comprehensive action at the national, regional and global levels, to achieve the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development relating to health by 2030;

(2) to prioritize health system strengthening, including ensuring an adequately skilled and compensated health workforce, in order to achieve and sustain universal health coverage, defined as universal access to quality promotion, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliation services, including access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all, ensuring financial protection from out-of-pocket expenditure on health for all with a special emphasis on the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized segments of the population² as fundamental to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(3) to emphasize the need for cooperative action at the national, regional, and global levels across and within all government sectors to tackle social, environmental and economic determinants of health, to reduce health inequities, in particular through the empowerment of women and girls, and contribute to sustainable development, including "Health in All Policies" as appropriate;

(4) to appropriately prioritize investments in health and strengthen the mobilization and effective use of domestic and international resources for health in accordance with the broad multisectoral impact that health investments can have on economies and communities;

(5) to support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and noncommunicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, to provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property

¹ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

² See resolution WHA67.14.

Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, to provide access to medicines for all;¹

(6) to strengthen the dialogue between the medical, veterinary and environmental communities with special attention to emerging and re-emerging diseases, along with the emergence of antimicrobial resistant pathogens, in a way that fosters strengthened and improved surveillance, research, preventive measures and training to ensure or to build capacities to address and manage these global health challenges;

(7) to develop, on the basis of existing mechanisms wherever possible, quality, inclusive, transparent national accountability processes, consistent with national policies, plans and priorities, for regular monitoring and review of progress towards the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which should form the basis for global and regional progress assessment;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to promote a multisectoral approach and the active engagement of WHO at all levels to coordinated implementation of the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with regard to health, pursuant to the principle that the Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are integrated and indivisible, including through alignment and improved collaboration across WHO programmes;

(2) to engage, in the context of United Nations system-wide strategic planning, implementation and reporting, in order to ensure coherent and integrated support to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(3) to take a proactive role in supporting integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national, regional and global levels and, in consultation with Member States, develop a long-term plan for maximizing the impact of the contributions of WHO at all levels towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(4) to work with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, as appropriate, for the further development and finalization of the health-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators;

(5) to take steps to ensure that needed capacities and resources, at all levels of the Organization, are developed and maintained for the successful achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly to support comprehensive and integrated national plans for health as part of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognizing that needed competencies include the ability to work with multiple sectors, responding to a broader set of health priorities, including supporting progress towards universal health coverage, and providing capacity building or technical support;

(6) to support Member States in strengthening research and development of new technologies and tools, as well as health technology assessment, paying special attention to the health research and development needs of developing countries, building on relevant strategies, action plans and programmes, in particular on the basis of the Global strategy and plan of action on

¹ See Sustainable Development Goal 3, target 3b..

public health, innovation and intellectual property and its follow-up processes for achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular for achieving access for all to quality, safe, effective, and affordable vaccines and medicines and diagnostics for communicable and noncommunicable diseases;

(7) to support Member States to undertake health systems research to develop more effective approaches to ensuring and delivering universal access to health services, paying special attention to the needs of developing countries;

(8) to facilitate enhanced North–South, South–South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to health-related science, technology and innovation, and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism;

(9) to work with Member States to ensure that WHO shall effectively contribute to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, within its existing mandate, by supporting the thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues, where possible, feeding into and being aligned with the cycle of the High-level Political Forum, according to the modalities to be established by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the context of the High-level Political Forum;

(10) to report to Member States on a regular basis, at least every two years, on global and regional progress towards achieving the health Goal as a whole and its interlinked targets, as well as other health-related Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including a focus on universal health coverage and equity;

(11) to support Member States in strengthening national statistical capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, in order to ensure high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable, and disaggregated health data, including through, where appropriate, the Health Data Collaborative;

(12) to support Member States to strengthen reporting on the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, in particular the health Goal and its interlinked targets;

(13) to take the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into consideration in the development of the Programme budget and the General Programme of Work, as appropriate;

(14) to report on progress in implementing this resolution to the Seventieth World Health Assembly, reporting to future Health Assemblies at least once every two years thereafter.

Eighth plenary meeting, 28 May 2016
A69/VR/8

= = =