EXPLANATORY NOTE

Proposal for the establishment of an Ad Hoc Regional Platform for Working Together for Better Health and Well-being for All

WORKING TOGETHER FOR BETTER HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
Promoting Intersectoral and Interagency Action for Health and Well-being in the WHO European Region

High-level Conference
7–8 December 2016, Paris, France
Introduction

At the request of Member States, the WHO Regional Office for Europe has convened this high-level conference in response to WHO Regional Committee for Europe decision EUR/RC65(1) on promoting intersectoral action for health and well-being in the WHO European Region: health is a political choice.

The high-level conference focuses on reducing health inequalities across the WHO European Region through intersectoral, interagency and multistakeholder action to achieve equitable health and well-being for all. It starts with a focus on interventions for children from the earliest stages of life, then addresses actions across the life-course and across generations. This first meeting of Member States provides a platform for exchange of good policy and practice on tackling inequalities and improving the health and well-being of all children and adolescents in the European Region.

The vision for this Ad Hoc Regional Platform\(^1\) is to provide an ongoing forum for the exchange of good policy and practice to promote an integrated and coordinated approach across the Region.

Aim

The aim of the platform is to support and facilitate intersectoral action for health and well-being for all in an action-orientated manner and to ensure coherence between existing commitments and processes at the regional level.

The Regional Platform envisages convening at ad hoc intervals to:

- share good practice
- convene multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral partnerships
- assess progress periodically.

Between meetings of the Ad Hoc Regional Platform, work will continue through subregional approaches and networks.

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\(^1\) This multisectoral, multistakeholder platform is being convened in the wider context of existing United Nations processes:

- the *Delivering as one* process, which builds on the reform agenda set by United Nations Members States to ask the United Nations development system to accelerate its efforts to increase coherence and effectiveness of its operations in the field (see: https://undg.org/home/guidance-policies/delivering-as-one/delivering-as-one-background/); and
- implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at regional level, which includes issue-based coalitions that operate under the Regional Coordination Mechanism/Regional-United Nations Development Group (RCM/R-UNDG).

The work of the Ad Hoc Regional Platform will be coherent with these existing United Nations processes.

United Nations agencies and other international organizations will come together during the closing session of the conference to discuss with Member States how to continue building a transformative partnership at the regional level between the health, education and social sectors. This will support work towards the achievement of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Possible areas for further exploration include:

- labour, workforce and employment, including youth employment and the transition from education to work;
- governance of the commercial determinants of health; and
- synergies between social, environmental and economic determinants of health.

**Further questions for consideration**

- How can the platform add value to existing regional processes?
- How frequently, and with what profile, should the platform convene?
- How should the platform report to existing regional governance mechanisms, such as the WHO Regional Committee for Europe?
- What tools at the regional and national level do Member States need to support implementation of the Paris Declaration?
- What themes do you propose for discussion at the next platform meeting?
The WHO Regional Office for Europe

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations created in 1948 with the primary responsibility for international health matters and public health. The WHO Regional Office for Europe is one of six regional offices throughout the world, each with its own programme geared to the particular health conditions of the countries it serves.

Member States

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Andorra
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Moldova
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San Marino
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