WHO European Ministerial Conference on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in the Context of Health 2020

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
3–4 December 2013

Provisional programme

Monday, 2 December 2013

12:00–13:30  Lunch
Restaurant “Altyn Yildiz”

13:30–16:00  Guided tour

16:00–19:00  Registration

19:30  Welcome reception hosted by the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, Turkmenistan
Hotel Oguzkent (by invitation)

Tuesday, 3 December 2013

08:00–09:00  Registration (continued, Hotel Oguzkent only)

09:00–10:30  Opening of the Conference
The Ministerial Conference will be officially opened by the host country, Turkmenistan, represented by high-level officials, and by the World Health Organization.

Introduction by the Chair
Oleg Chestnov, Assistant Director-General, Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, WHO

Speakers
High Level Official, Turkmenistan
Zsuzsanna Jakab, Regional Director, WHO Regional Office for Europe
Margaret Chan, Director-General, WHO (by video)
Evelin Ilves, First Lady of the Republic of Estonia

10:30–11:00  Coffee break
11:00–12:30  
**Plenary session I**

**NCDs and development**

This session will provide the opportunity to consider ways to: reduce the burden of NCDs and avoid compromising on public health gains made over the last three decades; examine the close connections between NCDs and development in epidemiological, social, political and historical terms; present the need for investment and return within a policy cycle; and seek possibilities for regional action and cooperation on the prevention and control of NCDs, as well as national drives to address them.

**Chair**

Turkmenistan

**Keynote speaker**

Gauden Galea, Director, Division of Noncommunicable Diseases and Life-course, WHO Regional Office for Europe

**Panel I: Moderated discussion on the Ashgabat Declaration**

**Moderator**

Clive Needle, Director and European Union Policy Advisor, EuroHealthNet

**Panel**

Keynote speaker, expert and representatives of Member States (6)

12:00–14:00  
**Lunch including presentation**

The historical perspective and vision for the future

**Guest speaker:** Pekka Puska, Director General, National Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland

14:00–15:30  
**Plenary session II**

**Tobacco Free Europe**

This session will pose several questions. Can Europe aim for stronger implementation of the WHO FCTC? How is evidence linked to policies? Are mechanisms for accountability and monitoring in place? Can we consider setting a target for an eventual Tobacco Free Europe? In the face of increasing interference by the tobacco industry, does Europe have the courage to declare “game over” to “Big Tobacco” and act accordingly?

**Chair**

Turkey

**Keynote speaker**

Ruth Malone, Editor-in-Chief, Tobacco Control

**Panel II: Moderated discussion on the Ashgabat Declaration**

**Moderator**

Clive Needle, Director and European Union Policy Advisor, EuroHealthNet

**Panel**

Keynote speaker, expert, and representatives of Member States (6)

15:30–16:00  
**Coffee break**

16:00–18:00  
**Plenary session III**

**Health-system challenges and opportunities**
This session will focus on the ongoing assessments of health systems to ensure equitable access to health care, and the need for quality outcomes in the prevention and control of NCDs.

Chair
Turkmenistan

Keynote speaker
Ilona Kickbusch, Director, Global Health Programme, The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland

Panel III: Discussion on the draft of the Ashgabat Declaration
The declaration will serve as an instrument of concrete commitment to joint action for NCD prevention and control in the European Region and as an important step in the implementation of Health 2020 and the WHO global action plan for the prevention and control of NCDs (2013–2020).

Co-chair
Lithuania

19:30
Reception hosted by the WHO Regional Director for Europe
Hotel Yildyz (by invitation)

Wednesday, 4 December 2013

09:00–10:30
Plenary session IV

Strengthening national responses
In this session, Member States’ experiences in this area will be reported and reviewed, based on lessons learnt from health systems’ reviews and the results of WHO country capacity surveys on NCD prevention and control, the fourth of which was conducted in 2013.

Indicative list of topics: governance; development of national NCD plans; monitoring and surveillance; inequalities; early detection of cancer; cardio-metabolic risk assessment; health workforce; access to quality medicines.

Chair
Republic of Moldova

Keynote speaker
Nurmuhammet Amannepesov, Minister of Health and Medical Industry, Turkmenistan

Panel IV: Moderated discussion on national responses to NCDs

Moderator
Clive Needle, Director and European Union Policy Advisor, EuroHealthNet

Panel
Expert and representatives of Member States (18)

10:30–11:00
Coffee break

11:00–12:30
Panel IV: Moderated discussion on national responses to NCDs (continued)

12:30–14:00
Lunch including presentation
The role of civil society

Guest speaker: Sir George Alleyne, Director Emeritus, WHO Regional Office
for the Americas

14:00–15:30  Closing ceremony

Presentation of the Ashgabat Declaration

Chair

Oleg Chestnov, Assistant Director-General, Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, WHO

Signing ceremony

Closure of the Conference

16:00–18:00  Closed meeting for Ministers

Guided tour