



WHO Global Conference on Non-Communicable Diseases

The WHO Global Conference on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), hosted by the president of Uruguay, Tabaré Vázquez, took place in Montevideo from October 18-20.

The purpose of the event was to enhance policy coherence among the various spheres of policy making that impact the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) [target 3.4](#) on NCDs, which is to **reduce premature mortality from NCDs by one third by 2030 through prevention and treatment**.

This report provides a review of whole conference, including:

- Objectives
- Participants
- An overview of the main topics discussed
- Highlights from the Ministerial Forum
- A review of the Intersectional dialogue
- Conference materials (including speakers' presentations, panel moderators' reports and speeches by WHO officials, among other documents).

Objectives

- To provide guidance to Member States on how to meet SDG target 3.4 by 2030 by influencing public policies in various sectors (health, trade, and education, among others).
- To launch a set of new global initiatives which will help countries accelerate their progress to date in reducing premature mortality from NCDs.
- To exchange national experiences in enhancing policy coherence to meet the nine voluntary global NCD targets by 2025.

Who is responsible for reaching target 3.4?

8 Respuestas

President 50%

Minister of Health 38%

The public 13%

The conference program is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Participants

A wide variety of public policy decision makers were invited and speakers included:

- Heads of State and Government from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, among others.
- Ministers of Health from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Panama, Paraguay, Santa Lucía, Suriname and Uruguay, to name only authorities from Latin America.
- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, WHO
- Carissa Etienne, Regional Director, Pan American Health Organization/WHO
- Oleg Chestnov, Assistant Director-General, Non-communicable Diseases and Mental Health, WHO

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- Heads of private sector entities Thomas B. Cueni, Director General, International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations
- Heads from a number of non-state actors such as NCD Alliance, the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, World Medical Association, Latin American and Caribbean Society of Medical Oncology, and the Norwegian Cancer Society
- Members of public institutions like Mexican National Institute of Public Health (INSP) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Representatives from philanthropic institutions such as Bloomberg Philanthropies, Médecins Sans Frontières
- Members of academic institutions, including the University of Illinois at Chicago, the University of Miami, University of California, San Diego,

Conference final document

The Conference resulted in the adoption of the **outcome document known as the “Montevideo Roadmap 2018-2030 on NCDs as a sustainable development priority”** (available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)), which was endorsed and signed by the participants. The outcome document may also serve as a contribution to the discussions at the 71st World Health Assembly, to be held in Geneva in May 2018.

The contributions to the Conference held in Montevideo will also be extremely relevant to the intergovernmental process on the outcome document for the third High-Level Meeting on NCDs in 2018, which will take place under the auspices of the President of the UN General Assembly.

Main topics discussed throughout the conference

Is your government able to manage conflict of interest with the food and beverage industry

80 Respuestas

Yes

38%

No

45%

Unsure

18%

The conference focused predominantly on public policies aimed at preventing NCDs, mostly by **curving unhealthy habits and guiding society and industry towards healthier choices. Regulation of the tobacco and food industries was the salient theme** for most panels and speeches throughout the three days of the conference.

Public health issues related to poor diet, smoking and physical inactivity received the most attention, which correlates to some of the “trending policies” being implemented in Latin America and Europe. Most notably, **several countries are currently revising regulations concerning product packaging and advertising**, while also **pushing for lower salt, sugar and fat contents in manufactured products** and related measures.

To access the full version of this document and the previous report on the intergovernmental drafting process for the Montevideo Roadmap (available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)) please contact our Global Executive Director María Barón at mbaron@directoriolegislativo.org