Terms of Reference for the
WHO Independent High-level Commission on NCDs

1. The Independent High-level Commission on NCDs will be convened by the WHO Director-General from October 2017 to October 2019 to advise him on bold and at the same time practical recommendations on how to transform new opportunities to enable countries to accelerate progress towards SDG target 3.4 on NCDs.

2. The Commission will consist of 20 eminent persons, including representatives of governments, UN agencies, NGOs, the private sector, philanthropic foundations, and academic institutions, with the appropriate geographical and gender balance. The Commissioners will be members in their personal capacity and will represent objective, balanced opinions on the topics discussed.

3. The Commission will take into account previous and existing initiatives, notably those developed under the auspices of the WHO Governing Bodies, Conference of the Parties to WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly. The Commission will engage and consult widely with relevant constituencies at national, regional and global levels.

4. The Co-Chairs of the Commission, President Tabaré Vázquez of Uruguay, and Sania Nishtar, founder and President of NGO Heartfile, will be members of the Commission and will serve as the link to the WHO Director-General.

5. The initial outputs (phase I) of the Commission will include:

- A new independent platform established to mobilize new and existing stakeholders to identify forward-looking innovative recommendations for accelerating the response to NCDs in the face of new opportunities, and rapidly changing contexts, and promote collective advocacy with a view to reach SDG target 3.4 on NCDs.

- Actionable recommendations made as input towards the Third High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on NCDs.

6. The remit of the Commission includes identifying options for political choices, governance, science and technology innovations, financing for NCDs (both catalytic and domestic resource mobilisation), international cooperation, accountability mechanisms, commercial determinants, and modalities for integrating mental health within the NCDs framework.

7. The Commission will submit a first report to the WHO Director-General in May 2018 (end of phase I).

8. The Commission will define its additional outputs (phase II) after the submission of the first report to the Director-General.

9. The Commission will convene periodically and will be supported by working groups, knowledge networks, and invited experts. The Commission will hold public hearings and calls for open submissions.
10. The Commission will be supported by a dedicated secretariat at WHO, which will be responsible for the day-to-day work, including the preparation of background materials, organization of consultations and meetings, translation, organizational arrangements, logistics, and communications associated with the work of the Commission. The secretariat will draw on WHO staff from the three levels of the Organization. In addition, WHO will provide support for the co-chairs, including an independent consultant responsible for drafting the reports, senior advisors, a communication team, local administrative support, and additional translation, where required.

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