



Frequently Asked Questions: Third International Dialogue on Sustainable Financing for NCDs and Mental Health

This FAQ aims to give a brief overview of key terms, actions, and opportunities ahead of the Third International Dialogue on Sustainable Financing for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health. For more information and resources, please visit Global Week for Action website (ActOnNCDs.org)

What is the Third Financing Dialogue on NCDs and Mental Health?

The Third International Dialogue on Sustainable Financing for Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, hosted by the Government of the Philippines, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the Asian Development Bank, will take place in Manila from 2 to 4 September 2026.

The dialogue looks to strengthen sustainable financing and health system reform for NCDs and mental health, building off both the first and second convenings (2018 and 2024) as well as the new NCD commitments made in the 2025 Political Declaration on NCDs and Mental Health. The dialogue was timed to capitalize on the “2026 Access Pivot,” the moment when GLP-1s and essential biosimilars come off-patent in many lower- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and is seen as an opportunity to accelerate financial protection and UHC integration.

The Dialogue will deliver three main outputs:

1. **The Manila Declaration**, a statement advancing political commitments on UHC, financial protection, equitable access, and access to medicines. The Declaration will be adopted by consensus among Member States, civil society has not been asked to input into the draft.
2. **A Regional initiative to improve coordination on NCD medicine access** amid the 2026 Access Pivot; highlighting its strategic value in improving accelerated introduction of quality-assured generics, pricing, affordability, and market access, particularly for LMICs. This Regional Initiative is for the WPRO region, however, the WHO is exploring opportunities to extend this work into other regions in the next few years.
3. **A Practical Guide**, offering technical guidance to governments operationalizing options for financing and strategic purchasing reforms, including tools across the policy, practice, and pricing continuum.

What is the ‘2026 Access Pivot’?

The '2026 Access Pivot' refers to how, in 2026, many high-impact NCD medicines like GLP-1s and essential biosimilars are coming off-patent in low- and middle-income countries. This is seen as a unique opportunity to:

1. Improve affordability through inclusion of quality-assured generic and biosimilar medicines into UHC benefit packages; and
2. Strengthen financial protection by shifting from high out-of-pocket spending to predictable, publicly financed access.

The Dialogue is timed to capitalize on this moment as a chance to accelerate financial protection and UHC integration, expanding access through generic production, pooled procurement, and voluntary licensing agreements. Both the Manila Declaration and the regional compact include dedicated sections addressing the '2026 Access Pivot'. While agenda items on the 'Access Pivot' primarily focus on GLP-1s and diabetes technologies, NCDA encourages the principles of the access pivot to always be considered in the wider context of the need to improve access to all NCD medicines, the majority of which are already off-patent.

Who is invited to the dialogue?

The WHO has invited representatives from 62 governments to the Dialogue including ministers and senior officials from health, finance, trade, and planning sectors. Around 300 people are expected to attend, including WHO, UN agencies, the World Bank, and Asian Development Bank, alongside development partners, academics, civil society and people with lived experience.

List of governments invited by region:

- AFRO: Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Rep. of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, and Gabon.
- EMRO: Egypt, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, and Djibouti.
- EURO: Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Montenegro, and the Scottish Government.
- AMRO: Brazil, Canada, Chile, Jamaica, Peru, United States, Uruguay, El Salvador, Grenada, and Guyana.
- SEARO: Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Myanmar.
- WPRO: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Federated States of Micronesia, Mongolia, Nauru, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Viet Nam.

Who should members be targeting for outreach, member states or missions?

If your country government has been invited to attend the Dialogue:

- Reach out to your Ministries of Health to encourage their participation and strong commitments, and to share key advocacy messages. WHO has also reportedly invited representatives from Ministries of Finance and other relevant sectors, so as part of your outreach, encourage your MOH contacts to engage MOF and other relevant ministries in their own government's preparations for the Dialogue.

If your country government has not been invited to attend the Dialogue:

- If your government has not been invited, write your contacts at Geneva Missions and in Ministries of Health in capital to share information about the Dialogue. They may be interested in the conversations taking place and the outputs of meeting, given their relevance to global health discussions. Outreach like this helps advocates build and maintain regular contact with relevant officials.

You can adapt our [Template Letter](#) to guide your outreach.

What are governments being asked to do?

Ahead of the meeting, participating governments will receive and have the opportunity to provide feedback on the Manila Declaration. In addition, some governments will be invited to participate across various parts of the agenda. For example, during the 2nd Financing Dialogue in Washington two years ago, some countries gave presentations on various health system and financing reform efforts they were undertaking, and others shared their knowledge and experiences during panel interventions.

How can civil society and people with lived experience of NCDs engage ahead of the dialogue?

There are sections in the Dialogue agenda dedicated to People with Lived Experience of NCDs, including a panel organized by the WHO. While the meeting is invite-only, with no virtual attendance option for governments, civil society, or People with Lived Experience, there are still meaningful ways to engage in the lead up:

- Engage in the Global Week for Action on NCDs. This year the GW4A coincides with the Third International Dialogue on Sustainable Financing for NCDs and Mental Health. Please review our ["What Can You Do as Civil Society"](#) resource on how you can act ahead of the Dialogue.
- Use the advocacy and social media materials on [ActOnNCDs.org](#) to share your lived experience perspective on NCD financing and build visibility and strengthen advocacy.