



A side event during the Forty-fifth Session of the Commission on Population and Development

Laying the Foundation for Healthy and Productive Living: Prevention of Non Communicable Diseases in Adolescents and Youth

Tuesday, 24 April 2012

1:15 pm – 2:45 pm

Turkish Center - 821 First Avenue, NYC, 8th Fl.

Light lunch will be served

Today, non communicable diseases (NCDs), specifically diabetes, heart disease/hypertension, chronic respiratory disease and cancer, are the leading causes of death and disability worldwide and account for 75% of all deaths in the region of the Americas. The risk factors for these NCDs are associated with behaviors that are established during adolescence*, including 1) harmful use of alcohol, 2) tobacco use, 3) sedentary lifestyle, and 4) an unhealthy diet. Simply put, during adolescence and young adulthood, individuals are making choices that will affect their future lifestyle—as well as their future health status, health care costs, and longevity. These choices are profoundly shaped by the social and physical environment, and the way we live, learn, play and work.

The economic burden of NCDs is estimated to cause a cumulative global output loss of US\$47 trillion over the next two decades worldwide. The largest economic burden of NCDs will be faced by middle and lower income countries, and many of the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean fall into these categories. NCDs and their risk factors are increasingly concentrated among the poor and less educated sections of our communities and treatment of NCDs throws many families into impoverishment – thus NCDs are both a cause and an effect of poverty.

The actions of governments and communities can help to facilitate positive health outcomes and be economically beneficial. There are a variety of options available to preventing and controlling NCDs, but there needs to be more sharing of experiences among and between developing and developed countries. This is particularly the case in relation to interventions targeting adolescents and youth. In addition, further research is needed in order to understand the benefits of different interventions on the behavior of youth and adolescents. Successful prevention must address how risks – as well as positive behaviors – are established during adolescence and young adulthood. We can improve the quality of the lives of millions of adolescents and young people, and eventually adults, by putting our knowledge into action and scaling-up key interventions to ensure that they live a healthy life and achieve their potential to contribute fully to society in the decades ahead.

Purpose

The event aims to draw attention to the importance of the wider health needs of adolescents and youth beyond sexual and reproductive health.

A panel of experts, practitioners and an affected youth will,

- 1. Analyze the current situation with regards to NCD prevention among adolescents and youth at the global and regional levels.**
- 2. Present current practices and lessons learned from interventions at the country level for NCD prevention among adolescents and youth.**
- 3. Identify policy gaps, challenges, and opportunities related to NCD prevention among adolescents and youth over the next decade in Latin America and the Caribbean.**

* The WHO defines adolescence as the period between the ages 10-19, youth between the ages of 15-24, and young people as the period between 10-24 years of age



The distinguished panel will be moderated by **H.E. Mr. Delano Bart**, Permanent Representative of St Kitts and Nevis and Chair of the Caucus of Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Panelists include:

- **Ms Jane Ferguson**, Senior Adviser, Adolescent Health, World Health Organization
- **Dr. Matilde Maddaleno**, Senior Advisor, Adolescent Health, Pan American Health Organization
 - *Global and Regional (Latin America and the Caribbean) perspectives for NCD prevention among adolescents*
- **Ms Michelle Davis, PhD**, Regional Health Administrator for New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 - *Successful Federal Initiatives that are Transforming Adolescent Health*
- **Dr. María Cristina Escobar**, Head of Department of Non Communicable Diseases at the Chilean Ministry of Health
 - *Progress on adolescent health policies in Chile*
- **Ms Krystal Boyea**, Youth Ambassador, North America & the Caribbean, International Diabetes Federation
 - *Living the life - Youth Perspective*
- **Dr. Robert Blum**, William H. Gates, Senior Professor & Chair, Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
 - *Policy gaps, challenges, and opportunities*

This panel will be followed by an inter-active dialogue among Member States and key stakeholders.

This event is being co-sponsored by
The Permanent Missions of the Member States of the Caribbean Community to the United Nations,
&
The Permanent Mission of Chile and The United States Mission to the United Nations

In collaboration with
The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization

The co-sponsors wish to acknowledge the kind support of the Turkish House

Please RSVP to Ms Jinny Klimas at jklimas@whoun.org