



Save the Date! – First Notice

Human rights-based approaches and domestic legal responses to NCDs: lessons learned

EXPERT MEETING

**Hosted by the International Development Law Organization (IDLO)
The Hague**

Tuesday, 22 September, 2015

In collaboration with:

**Global Health Law Groningen
&
Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Working Group of the
Netherlands School of Human Rights Research**

Development impact of NCDs

The World Health Organization has identified four major non-communicable diseases (NCDs) as challenges to human health and development in the 21st century: cardiovascular diseases (CVD), diabetes, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases. NCDs kill an estimated 38 million people each year.

Globally, around sixteen million NCD deaths occur annually before the age of 70. Over 80% of these 'premature' deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries. Most of the world's population live in countries where overweight and obesity kills more people than underweight. These premature deaths are largely preventable by tackling shared risk factors - tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, and the harmful use of alcohol. Health systems must also be strengthened to respond to the health care needs of people with NCDs.

Premature deaths from NCDs reduce productivity, trap populations in poverty and curtail sustainable economic development. Morbidity and mortality also impact hugely on families and communities who must care for people with NCDs.

The underlying determinants of these diseases and their shared risk factors mean that multisectoral, whole-of-government and whole-of-society responses are required. Legislative and regulatory frameworks and legal practices are an essential part of the national response.



The inclusion of targets for NCDs in the draft Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) presents welcome opportunities for the realisation of the right to health and the eradication of poverty. As with HIV and AIDS, human rights-based approaches offer an appropriate language and framework for identifying State responsibility and engagement of multiple actors (States, civil society, UN system, development agencies) in the global response. The relationship between NCDs and human rights-based approaches now needs to be more clearly articulated.

The Expert Meeting

This Expert Meeting will address two questions:

1. How can the international human rights framework contribute to the global response to NCDs?
2. Are the current international human rights frameworks adequate to address NCDs, or do we need new sources of legal obligation?

The issues will be examined in depth with reference to obesity, diabetes and healthy diets, however the conclusions will contain lessons for other NCDs.

Participants

The expert meeting is intended for government, academic and civil society representatives with an interest in the global health, law and human rights. Numbers are limited and participation is by registration on application to IDLO. The formal sessions will be in English.

Draft Program

09:30 - 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 13.00	Welcome Plenary presentations and discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current and future global burden of NCDs• Lessons from human rights-based approaches to HIV• Human rights-based approaches to NCDs• International trade, law and global health (includes refreshment break)
13:00 – 14.00	Lunch (provided)
14.00 – 16.00	Discussion Groups (topics to be confirmed) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development, trade and health• Community engagement• Advertising, media and labelling (includes refreshment break)
16.00 – 17.00	Plenary Discussion Conclusion
17.00 – 18.00	Refreshments and Networking

Further information and registration

Background documentation will be circulated in advance of the meeting. Participation is free of charge but registration is mandatory.

If you wish to apply for registration please write to DL-ncdsandlaw@idlo.int by Friday, **3 July 2015**. Successful applicants will be duly notified of acceptance to the meeting by **30 August 2015**.