

Glossary: Whole-of-government, whole-of-Society, health in all policies, and multisectoral
October 2016

Whole of government:

- “Recognize that effective non-communicable disease prevention and control require leadership and multisectoral approaches for health at the government level, including, as appropriate, **health in all policies and whole-of-government approaches** across such sectors as health, education, energy, agriculture, sports, transport, communication, urban planning, environment, labour, employment, industry and trade, finance, and social and economic development;” (Source: [2011 Political Declaration](#), (36))
- “Recall that effective non-communicable disease prevention and control requires leadership and multisectoral approaches to health at the governmental level, including, as appropriate, health-in-all-policies and whole-of-government approaches across sectors beyond health, while protecting public health policies for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases from undue influence by any form of real, perceived or potential conflict of interest;” (Source: [2014 Outcome Document on NCDs](#) (29))
- Commit to addressing non-communicable diseases as a matter of priority in national development plans, as appropriate within national contexts and the international development agenda, and to take the following measures with the engagement of all relevant sectors, including civil society and communities, as appropriate:
 - (a) Enhance governance:
 - (vi) Consider establishing, as appropriate to the respective national context, a national multisectoral mechanism, such as a high-level commission, agency or task force for engagement, policy coherence and mutual accountability of different spheres of policymaking that have a bearing on non-communicable diseases, in order to implement health-in-all-policies and whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, and to monitor and act on the determinants of non-communicable diseases, including social and environmental determinants;
(Source: [2014 Outcome Document on NCDs](#) (30))
- “The “**whole of government**” approach is one in which public service agencies work across portfolio boundaries, formally and informally, to achieve a shared goal and an integrated government response to particular issues. It aims to achieve policy coherence in order to improve effectiveness and efficiency. This approach is a response to departmentalism that focuses not only on policies but also on programme and project management.” (Source: [WHA A68/17, footnote 2](#))

Whole of society:

- “Acknowledge the contribution of and important role played by all relevant stakeholders, including individuals, families and communities, intergovernmental organizations and religious institutions, civil society, academia, the media, voluntary associations and, where and as appropriate, the private sector and industry, in support of national efforts for non-communicable disease prevention and control, and recognize the need to further support the strengthening of coordination among these stakeholders in order to improve the effectiveness of these efforts;” (Source: [2011 Political Declaration](#), (37))

Health in all policies:

- “Health in All Policies is an approach to public policies across sectors that systematically takes into account the health implications of decisions, seeks synergy and avoids harmful health impacts. It aims to improve population health and health equity. It also improves the accountability of policy-makers for health impacts at all levels of policy-making, and emphasizes the consequences of public policies on health systems, and on determinants of health and well-being.” (Source: [Health in All Policies: Framework for Country Action](#), 2015)

Multisectoral

- “National policies in sectors other than health have a major bearing on the risk factors for noncommunicable diseases, and that health gains can be achieved much more readily by influencing public policies in sectors like trade, taxation, education, agriculture, urban development, food and pharmaceutical production than by making changes in health policy alone. National authorities may wish, therefore, to adopt an approach to the prevention and control of these diseases that involves all government departments.” (Source: [WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2008-2013](#), p13)
- Involving different sectors, such as health, agriculture, education, finance, infrastructure, transport, trade, etc. (Source: *WHO Country Cooperation Strategy*)
- “The term “multisectoral action” refers to action between two or more sectors within the public sector and is generally interchangeable with “intersectoral action”.” (Source: [WHA A68/17, footnote 2](#))

Multisectoral collaboration:

- “A recognized relationship between part of parts of different sectors of society, such as ministries (e.g. of health or education), agencies, NGOs, private for-profit sector and community representation) which have been formed to take action to achieve health outcomes in a way which is more effective, efficient or sustainable than might be achieved by the health sector acting alone.” (Source: *WHO Country Cooperation Strategy*)
- “Strategies for reducing risk factors for noncommunicable diseases aim at providing and encouraging healthy choices for all. They include multisectoral actions involving the elaboration of high-level policies and plans as well as programmes related to advocacy, community mobilization, environmental interventions, health-system organization and delivery, legislation and regulation. As the underlying determinants of noncommunicable diseases often lie outside the health sector, strategies need the involvement of both public and private actors in multiple sectors such as agriculture, finance, trade, transport, urban planning, education, and sport. Different settings may be considered for action, for example, schools, workplaces, households and local communities.” (Source: [WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2008-2013](#), p 19)