



**WHO MEETING ON ACCESS TO MEDICINES FOR  
NONCOMMUNICABLE CHRONIC DISEASES**

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**Geneva, World Health Organization, Salle D  
27 August 2008**

AGENDA

**9:00 - 9:30**

Opening session:

Welcome, introduction and objectives of the meeting

*Dr A. Alwan, Assistant Director-General, Noncommunicable Diseases and  
Mental Health*

*Dr David Evans, Health Systems and Services*

*Dr H. Hogerzeil, Director, Essential Medicines and Pharmaceutical Policies*

**Setting the scene: the global and regional perspective**

*Dr H. Gezairy, Regional Director, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern  
Mediterranean*

**9:30 - 10:30**

**What do we know about access to chronic disease medicines?**

(Chair: S. Mendis, Coordinator, Chronic Diseases Prevention and Management)

**Access to diabetes medicines**

*Ms B. Volman, University of Utrecht*

**Access to cardiovascular disease medicines**

*Ms M. van Mourik, University Medical Centre Utrecht*

**Access to asthma medicines**

*Dr R. Laing, Medical Officer, Policy, Access and Rational Use of Medicines*

**How do we ensure medicines availability in this situation**

*Ms H Tata and Ms M Babaley, WHO*

**10:30 - 10:45**

Tea/coffee

**10:45 - 12:00**

What has been done to improve access to chronic disease medicines? What lessons can be learnt from other initiatives?

(Chair: Z. Mirza, Regional Advisor, Pharmaceuticals, WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean)

**Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of NCDs**

(Objective 2); Cairo Strategic Framework

*Dr S. Mendis, Coordinator, Chronic Diseases Prevention and Management*

**MDG Target 8.E gap analysis**

*Ms A. Cameron, Technical Officer, Policy, Access and Rational Use of  
Medicines*

Activities of other stakeholders to improve access to medicines for noncommunicable diseases - International Diabetes Federation, World Heart Federation, Health Action International, pharmaceutical industry, Asthma Drug Facility, TB Global Drug Facility



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- 12:00 - 12:30**      [Policy options to address access to chronic disease medicines](#)  
*Dr R. Laing, Ms A. Cameron*
- 12:30 - 13:30**      **Lunch**
- 13:30 - 14:00**      Gaps and opportunities for improving access to chronic disease medicines;  
introduction of group work  
*Dr H. Hogerzeil, Director, Essential Medicines and Pharmaceutical Policies*
- 14:00 - 15:15**      Group work: How can we improve access to medicines for noncommunicable  
chronic diseases?
- Group 1) [Assessing gaps, monitoring and evaluating progress in improving  
access to NCD medicines](#)
- Group 2) [Policy and programme interventions required to address gaps in access  
to NCD medicines](#)
- Group 3) [Types of partnerships needed at global, regional and national levels to  
address gaps in access to NCD medicines](#)
- 15:15 - 15:30**      **Tea/coffee**
- 15:30 - 16:30**      Report back on group discussion  
*Dr H. Hogerzeil*
- 16:30 - 17:00**      Conclusions and follow-up actions  
*Dr A. Alwan*