**Global Stakeholder Consultation on the Elimination of Cervical Cancer Initiative  
WHO, Geneva, Switzerland**

**4-5 September 2018 (Executive Board Room)**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**Context**

Cervical cancer incidence and mortality globally is a representation of the global divide in access to health and health services. While cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women globally, with 528,000 new cases and 266,000 deaths in 2012, nearly 90% of these deaths were in low- and middle-income countries.[[1]](#footnote-1) Within countries, there is also evidence that women from the poorest income quintile, those with lesser education levels, those in rural areas and those facing adverse gender norms, amongst other intersecting social factors, are generally less likely to benefit from timely prevention and detection and more likely to die from cervical cancer than those from more advantaged backgrounds.[[2]](#footnote-2)

This contrasts with the fact that there are proven strategies across the care continuum from vaccination to prevent HPV infection, screening and treatment of pre-cancerous lesions, early detection and prompt treatment of early invasive cancers to palliative care for late stage disease. Each of these interventions are embedded in the targets and indicators of the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013-2020[[3]](#footnote-3) and each is supported by cost-effectiveness recommendations and WHO technical guidance.[[4]](#footnote-4),[[5]](#footnote-5) These tools offer the potential to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem.

Recognizing the urgency for implementation, WHO Director General, made a global call for action towards the elimination of cervical cancer at the World Health Assembly in May 2018. The elimination of cervical cancer is also a priority under the Thirteenth WHO General Programme of Work. Working towards elimination will contribute to the reduction of premature mortality due to non-communicable diseases (SDG 3.4) as well as the realization of universal health coverage (SDG 3.8). It will also contribute to fulfilment of SDG 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls.

Over the last months and building on years of normative guidance on cervical cancer, WHO has been working with partners to develop a global strategy and supporting tools towards elimination of cervical cancer.

**The Stakeholder Consultation**

To build on this momentum, WHO is organizing a stakeholder consultation with participants from Ministries of Health, UN agencies, development partners, and implementing agencies. The draft global strategy will be presented with a view to discussing and agreeing on next steps towards (a) finalization of the strategy towards elimination and (b) formulation of an implementation plan for the global strategy.

Specific objectives of the meeting are as follows:

* To share the proposed definition of elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem
* To share and agree on proposed intermediate goals, targets and indicators towards the goal of elimination
* To present and agree the key elements of the strategy
* To discuss and agree how the strategy will be operationalized;
* To discuss and agree how to ensure coordinated action at the country, regional and global levels.

**Expected outcomes**

* Provide input on the emerging global strategy based on your experience and insights
* Share best practices among implementing partners
* Understand how your organization can get involved

1. IARC/WHO. GLOBOCAN 2012: Estimated cancer incidence, mortality and prevalence worldwide in 2012. Cervical Cancer Fact Sheet. Available at: http://globocan.iarc.fr/Pages/fact\_sheets\_cancer.aspx. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ginsburg O, Bray F, Coleman MP, et al. The global burden of women’s cancers: a grand challenge in global health. Lancet 2016. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(16)31392-7> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. WHO. Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013-2020. Available at: http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/94384/9789241506236\_eng.pdf?sequence=1 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. WHO. Saving lives, spending less: a strategic response to noncommunicable diseases. Available at: http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/272534/WHO-NMH-NVI-18.8-eng.pdf?ua=1 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. WHO. Tackling NCDs "Best buys" and other recommended interventions for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases. Available at: http://www.who.int/ncds/management/best-buys/en/ [↑](#footnote-ref-5)