



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**

Regional Committee for Europe

66th session

Copenhagen, Denmark, 12–15 September 2016

EUR/RC66/TD/4

6 September 2016

160561

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Let's talk country work: the added value of WHO

Technical briefing, Wednesday, 14 September 2016

13:00–14:20, Lounge area 1

Background

At the first session of the Twenty-third Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe (SCRC) in September 2015, Member States called for a technical briefing to be organized during the 66th session of the Regional Committee for Europe in order to understand more about the work of the WHO Regional Office for Europe at the country level, including the contributions and added value made by country offices.

Scope and purpose

The scope and purpose of the technical briefing is:

- to provide an overview of country-level work in the WHO European Region;
- to provide clarification about country-specific work versus intercountry work;
- to highlight the Regional Office's way of working in Member States with country offices and in Member States without a country presence; and
- to clarify the roles and responsibilities of country offices in the Region.

Format

The session will follow an interactive format to ensure the participation of Member State representatives, country partners, stakeholders and Heads of WHO offices (HWOs). The panel discussion will be facilitated by three HWOs. The panel will include three ministers of health, a state secretary of health, a United Nations resident coordinator and a WHO national counterpart.

Objective

The aim of the panel discussion is to demonstrate WHO work at the country level in different contexts and situations, such as in times of emergency or humanitarian crises. The role of country offices in promoting implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and in handling risk communication will be discussed. The panel will also reflect on how WHO interacts with other United Nations agencies and partners at the country level and will provide an overview of the tools available for effective collaboration, such as United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, biennial collaborative agreements and country cooperation strategies.

The overall objective of the technical briefing is for Member States to acquire a better understanding of work processes at the country level in order to optimize the added value of WHO within a country-specific context.

Provisional programme

Time	Topic/speaker
5 min	Welcome and introduction by the Chairperson <i>Dr Lucianne Licari</i> <i>Executive Manager, Country Relations and Corporate Communications</i>
10 min	Two HWOs share their country experiences <i>Dr Jarno Habicht</i> <i>Head of WHO Country Office, Kyrgyzstan</i> <i>Dr Pavel Ursu</i> <i>Head of WHO Country Office, Turkey</i>
35 min	Panel discussion
20 min	Question and Answer session and sharing of experiences on country-level work moderated by HWO Serbia <i>Dr Zsofia Pusztai</i> <i>Head of WHO Country Office, Serbia</i>
10 min	Concluding remarks and recommendations <i>Dr Lucianne Licari</i> <i>Executive Manager, Country Relations and Corporate Communications</i>