



Looking Back at 2016

The International Food & Beverage Alliance was founded in 2008 when CEOs of the world's leading food and non-alcoholic beverage companies came together to publicly commit their support of the 2004 WHO *Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health*. In this our ninth year, we look back at the highlights of our work in 2016. [Read more.](#)

NEWS AND EVENTS

WHO draws up short list for next Director-General, gears up for Next High-level Meeting on NCDs

The WHO Executive Board meeting met in Geneva between 23 January and 1 February. Although the election of the organization's next DG took the spotlight, NCDs were very high on the agenda. After a full day of closed-door sessions, the [World Health Organization's](#) Executive Board announced a short list of the three director-general nominees set to face election in May, during the World Health Assembly (May 22-31). Ethiopia's Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Pakistan's Sania Nishtar, and Britain's David Nabarro made the cut. The Executive Board also discussed the preparatory process for the 2018 UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs. The Board examined a [report](#) providing an update on the preparation of the HLM, which includes an update of [Appendix 3](#) to the WHO Global NCD Action Plan. The latest draft of the Appendix 3 contains new recommended actions, including on taxation and reformulation. Several Member States requested a technical briefing to examine the scientific evidence underpinning the promotion of certain actions. [Formal endorsement](#) of the report has therefore been pushed to the World Health Assembly. The group also discussed a [draft implementation plan](#) on ending childhood obesity, which aims to guide implementation of the report of the Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity (ECHO). Overall, the report was welcomed by Board members, although several delegations requested more time to review therecommended actions and opportunities to provide some comments. The report will be open for comments and updated ahead of the next WHA.

WHO chooses three candidates to succeed Director-General Margaret Chan

The WHO Executive Board has chosen three candidates from Ethiopia, Pakistan and the United Kingdom as finalists in the race to succeed Director-General Margaret Chan when she steps down in June after a decade leading the organization. They are: former Ethiopian Health Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs [Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus](#), Pakistani cardiologist and former Federal Minister responsible for Health, Science and Technology, Information Technology and Higher Education, and founder of a health think tank, Heartfelt, [Sania Nishtar](#), and medical doctor and currently a special advisor to the UN Secretary General for sustainable development and climate change, [David Nabarro](#). The final choice is to be made by all of WHO's 194 member states at The World Health Assembly, to be held May 22- 31, 2017.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

National salt reduction programmes combining industry targets and public education are a "best buy" for governments

A new [study](#) undertaken by researchers in the UK and USA from the Institute for Fiscal Studies and the Cambridge Institute of Public Health, Harvard TH Chan school of Public Health, Stanford University and Tufts Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy and published in the British Medical Journal, found that a government "soft regulation" strategy combining targeted industry agreements and public education to reduce population sodium intake by 10% over 10 years would be extremely cost effective in nearly all of 183 nations evaluated. The study was modelled on the successful [UK government's salt reduction initiative](#) with the food industry, which has resulted in an overall reduction in salt intake of 11% from 2005 to 2014.

Obesity and overweight are on the rise throughout Latin America and the Caribbean

According to a new report, [Panorama of Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean, \(only available in Spanish\)](#) by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN, and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), almost half the population of all countries in the region, except for Haiti are affected by the rise in obesity and overweight, which is particularly prevalent among women and children. The report calls for the promotion of healthy and sustainable food systems that link agriculture, food, nutrition and health. [Read more.](#)

The Business & Sustainable Development Commission calls on business leaders to adopt more sustainable development models

According to a new report, [Better Business, Better World](#), businesses could create up to 380 million jobs and unlock USD 12 trillion in economic opportunities by 2030 if they adopt more sustainable development models. The report used the 17 Sustainable Development Goals to provide the private sector with a framework to shape new corporate strategies that open valuable opportunities while creating a world that is sustainable and inclusive. The Commission focuses on four sectors that could create at least USD 12 trillion, worth over 10% of today's GDP. They are: energy, health & well-being, cities and food and agriculture. [The Business & Sustainable Development Commission](#) was launched at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2016.



Mondelēz International Foundation and Hope Kitchen

In China, Mondelēz International Foundation is working in partnership with the China Youth Development Foundation and the National Institute for Nutrition and Food Safety of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention in its programme – Mondelez Hope Kitchen – offering nutrition education, promoting active play and providing access to fresh foods to 150,000 rural school children with promising results. From 2015 to 2016, the percentage of malnourished children decreased from 18% to 8%; nutrition knowledge increased by 13.2%; physical activity increased by 4% and more than 9% of children are eating more fresh foods. Since its beginning in 2009, the programme has expanded to 300 schools in 19 cities and provinces. [Read more.](#)



Forward



Tenth Meeting on the WHO European Childhood Obesity Surveillance Initiative Malta, 20 - 21 February 2017. [Read more.](#)

First Meeting of the WHO GCM/NCD Working Group on health education and health literacy for NCDs: 27 - 28 February 2017. [Read more.](#)

Consumer Goods Forum: Global Food Safety Conference: Houston, USA, 27 February - 2 March 2017. [Read more.](#)



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