

GLOBAL HEALTH CRISES TASK FORCE

Summary of First Quarterly Meeting (23 August 2016)

1. Mr. Jan Eliasson (the United Nations Deputy Secretary General) opened the meeting, thanking Dr. Margaret Chan (the Director-General of the World Health Organization) and Dr. Jim Yong Kim (the President of the World Bank Group) for serving as co-leads and thanking the Task Force members for their participation. He emphasized the importance of having functioning systems in place for tackling global health crises. He noted the need for a body of internal and external experts to monitor progress on the recommendations of the High Level Panel on the Global Response to Health Crisis (HLP). He stressed the value of horizontal methods of working together, with WHO as the leading agency and with other bodies playing their roles. He urged the Task Force to focus on prevention.

2. Dr. Chan recognized the contributions of countries, UN agencies and other partners who made progress possible on many fronts. She reported on the activities of WHO to strengthen capacities at the national and global level to address health crises. These activities include developing a joint external evaluation tool to monitor compliance with the International Health Regulations; working with regional and sub-regional entities to recruit and certify medical teams; preparing standard operating procedures for managing infectious hazards in the context of the current humanitarian architecture; and developing a blueprint to identify severe pathogens and necessary actions to drive innovation in research and development; WHO has also strengthened its own capacity by establishing the new WHO Health Emergencies Programme, as endorsed by the World Health Assembly in May 2016. She noted funding gaps for Health Emergencies Programme, the WHO Contingency Fund for Emergencies, and health-related activities in humanitarian crises.

3. Dr. Kim urged the Task Force to commit to breaking the cycle of panic and neglect in reacting to health crises. He commended efforts and actions in the last two years, which he considered made the world safer in the face of future threats. He reported on the l.JTJ6(e)h Tm(rTJETBT1 0(

5. The Task Force members noted that health systems strengthening needs to be approached strategically, so that the urgent objectives of promoting health security are pursued

10. The Task Force members agreed that simulations and table-top exercises should be used to test the functioning of systems and processes, as well as to ensure accountability. A number of simulation exercises are underway

Ensuring health crises are a priority on global political agenda

14. The Task Force members stressed the importance of engaging with political processes to maintain health security as a priority on the global political agenda. Health should be integrated centrally into political processes, such as the G20, G7 and