

## **PARALLEL SESSION 1.3**

**THE COMMERCIAL DETERMINANTS OF NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**



## | BACKGROUND

Key risk factors of NCDs are strongly associated with patterns of consumption and easy access to unhealthy products. Corporate influence is usually exerted through five main channels: increasing control over production and investment by large corporates; increasing control over marketing, particularly marketing to children, to increase the appeal and acceptability of unhealthy products; lobbying, which can negatively influence policies related to plain packaging and minimum drinking ages; corporate social responsibility strategies, to enhance positive image and extensive supply chains to exert influence all over the world.

From the NCD perspective, health outcomes are determined by influencing the social environment in which people live and work: the availability, cultural practices and prices of unhealthy products. Hence, the rise of non-communicable diseases is a manifestation of a global economic system that currently prioritises wealth creation over health creation. Many problems and solutions to address the risk factors lie outside the health sector, in the domains of finance, trade and investment policies.

Commercial determinants of health are a sub-set of the social determinants of health with which they interact, such as education, occupation, income, ethnicity, race, access to healthcare and structural determinants (socio-economic and political context) and affect individuals throughout the life course, as they shape disease risk factors and ultimately disease across the life span. The life-course approach to analysing the social determinants also provides an opportunity to identify potential entry points for action.

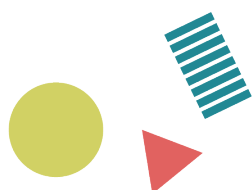
This session will entail a detailed analysis of the key commercial drivers of NCDs. It will present the main strategies and approaches used by the private sector to promote choices detrimental to health. These will include marketing, trade and foreign direct investment. The session will also examine the role played by different institutions in facilitating or regulating these, especially Governments, as well as other stakeholders including multilateral organizations and civil society.

## | OBJECTIVES

- To analyse the role industry plays in the commercial determinants of NCDs, including food/beverage, tobacco, alcohol and extractive industries
- To showcase a few exemplary interventions that have successfully addressed selected commercial determinants (E.g. regulation of marketing, including to children, and labelling of sugary beverages, unhealthy foods, tobacco and alcohol; enactment of regulations to contain pollution from mines, power plants, factories and cars).

Some of the questions to address may include:

- What are the commercial drivers influencing the risk factors of NCDs in different contexts? What is the role of industry (e.g. food and beverage, tobacco, alcohol, extractive industries) in influencing the commercial determinants?
- What are the common strategies of marketing to children and adolescents (e.g. particularly digital marketing) and mechanisms to reduce exposure to NCD risk factors, notably alcohol, tobacco and unhealthy foods and beverages?
- How have governments engaged with industry to mitigate the risk to health and enhance public health benefits? What has worked and what has not?
- What is the role played by different institutions in facilitating or regulating the commercial determinants, including Governments, and other stakeholders such as WTO, multilateral organizations and civil society?





Moderator / Speaker / Panelist

## Tea Collins

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Téa Collins, MD, MPH, MPA, DrPH, is Adviser to the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Coordination Mechanism on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (GCM/NCD), where she oversees work on development cooperation, resource flows into NCDs, strengthening health systems for universal health coverage, implementation research and social determinants of NCDs. Dr Collins came to WHO from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), where she provided technical advice and expertise on matters related to comprehensive cancer control and health systems strengthening to the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT). Prior to IAEA, Dr Collins advised the World Medical Association (WMA) on global health issues of concern to the medical profession, in collaboration with the WHO Global Health Workforce Alliance. As part of her work at WMA she oversaw a global campaign on immunization against influenza among physicians and other healthcare workers. She also served as the first Executive Director of the NCD Alliance, a partnership of over 2,000 member organizations in 170 countries with a mission to combat the NCD epidemic by putting health at the center of all policies. Dr Collins' background includes work at the national Ministry of Health in Georgia, as well as experience managing technical assistance for the US\$ 20 million World Bank Health Reform Implementation Project. She also led the USAID-supported reproductive health and primary health care education projects in the Caucasus targeting internally displaced populations. Dr Collins's academic work includes an appointment at the George Washington University in Washington, DC, where she taught graduate courses on subjects ranging from international health and development to strengthening health systems in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. While at GWU, Dr Collins conducted research and consulted with organizations such as John Snow, Inc., the US Department of Health and Human Services and the National Council on Hispanic Aging. Dr Collins is a pediatrician with a Doctorate in Global Health from The George Washington University, as well as a Master's Degree in Public Health from Boston University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. She was a Presidential Scholar, Mason Fellow and Public Service Fellow at Harvard and served on the Board of Directors of the Kennedy School Alumni Association.