

## **PARALLEL SESSION 3.4**

**NO PROGRESS WITHOUT ACTION: A NEW ERA OF ACCOUNTABILITY TO END  
EMPTY PROMISES FOR NCD PREVENTION AND CONTROL**



## | BACKGROUND

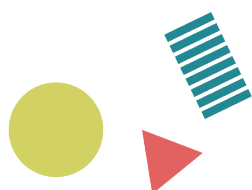
A plethora of global NCD commitments and targets have been made, but ten years since the first UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs it is evident countries are struggling to move to implementation, and the official process to track and review global progress is overwhelming and confusing. 25 outcome indicators, 10 progress indicators, and 2 SDG indicators comprise the global accountability framework for NCDs. Yet many low- and income countries (LMICs) still have inadequate national information systems, the reporting globally on NCDs is not providing the in-depth granular trends that is required to catalyse action, and all reporting on NCD targets and commitments are voluntary (unlike in the case of framework conventions such as the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control or the Paris Agreement which is legally binding).

As has been demonstrated by the HIV/AIDS and women and children's health communities, accountability can be a crucial force for political and programmatic change. Defined as a cyclical process of monitoring, review and action, accountability enables the tracking of commitments, resources, and results and provides information on what works and why, what needs improving, and what requires increased attention. Accountability ensures that decision-makers have the information required to meet the health needs and realise the rights of all people at risk of or living with NCDs, and to place them at the heart of related efforts.

This session will seek to explore if the global accountability framework and architecture for NCDs is fit for purpose. Speakers will explore whether there is ownership and adherence by countries to the international system of declarations, commitments and targets, and if the systems are in place at the country level to ensure accountability; if there is value in a greater focus on independent accountability mechanisms, as has been central pillar of accountability for women and children's health; what are the lessons learnt from other parts of global health governance and other parts of sustainable development (for example the FCTC and other conventions); and what is the role of non-state actors in driving accountability for NCDs (for example, shadow reporting and witnessing).

## | OBJECTIVES

- Review and evaluate the current accountability framework and architecture for NCDs, and explore ways of strengthening it
- Identify lessons learnt from other global health governance and mechanisms, including Framework Conventions, and their implications for NCDs
- Explore the value of independent accountability mechanisms, and the role of non-state actors in accountability.





Panelist

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Leanne Riley has been serving as a Scientist with the World Health Organization, Geneva Switzerland since August 1996. She currently works in the Department for Prevention of Noncommunicable Diseases, where she leads NCD Surveillance. This includes developing global standards for noncommunicable disease surveillance and risk factor assessment; producing standard methodologies for collecting, analysing and displaying data; and supporting the collection, analysis and dissemination of country-level noncommunicable diseases and risk factor information to inform and improve public health policy. Specific survey initiatives supported by her team include the WHO STEPwise Approach to NCD Risk Factor Surveillance (STEPS), Global School Based Student Health Survey (GSHS), Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS), Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS), and the NCD Country Capacity Survey. Prior to this she worked in the WHO Tobacco Free Initiative, with responsibility for youth programming and surveillance and for tobacco product regulation issues; and the WHO Programme on Substance Abuse with responsibility for work in the area of alcohol surveillance, policy and programme development. She was educated in both New Zealand and the United Kingdom, and has an MSc (Econs) from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).