

Fourth WHO Forum on Alcohol, Drugs and Addictive Behaviours (FADAB)

Taking stock of the past and looking into the future: focusing on tasks, challenges and opportunities ahead

27-30 June 2023

Geneva, Switzerland

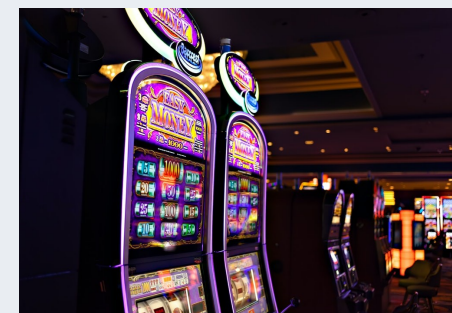
“After the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to an online format of the third Forum on Alcohol, Drugs and Addictive Behaviours (FADAB), the WHO Secretariat is pleased to welcome you in-person to the fourth edition of the Forum in Geneva. Building upon the success of the previous three FADABs held in 2017, 2019, and 2021, the fourth Forum aims to enhance international collaboration among key stakeholders in the fields of substance use and addictive behaviors. The focus will be on discussing the implementation of international commitments, including those outlined in the Global alcohol action plan (2022-2030) approved by the World Health Assembly in 2022. These commitments require action to be taken over the next seven years.

As the world emerged out of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has significantly impacted our lives and public health priorities, the importance of strong international collaboration to address substance use and addictive behaviours as important determinants of mental health and well-being has become even more evident. It is essential to promote and support international efforts and partnerships in order to make progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2030 targets. This includes SDG health target 3.5 that calls for strengthening prevention and treatment of substance use and substance use disorders.

I extend my best wishes for a productive Forum!”

*Dr Jérôme Salomon
Assistant Director-General
Division of Universal Health Coverage/Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases (UCN)*

World Health Organization



World Health Organization

Please register to attend the Forum in person via the following hyperlink:

<https://indico.un.org/event/1004533/registrations/10337/?invitation=43d50421-81d5-416e-bb62-8439a2396066>

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Overview

The Alcohol, Drugs and Addictive Behaviours (ADA) Unit, within the Department of Mental Health and Substance Use at WHO Headquarters is pleased to organize the fourth edition of the WHO global Forum on Alcohol, Drugs and Addictive Behaviours (FADAB). Our primary aim with FADAB is to foster strong partnerships and collaboration among public health-oriented organizations, networks and institutions to accelerate and sustain public health actions in our rapidly changing world.

The fourth FADAB takes place soon after the COVID-19 pandemic, which not only presented new challenges to health systems around the world, but also accelerated some policy and programme developments that have the potential to bring lasting public health benefits beyond the pandemic.

The fourth Forum will have a special focus on implementation of the WHO-led SAFER initiative that is based on strategies and interventions included as “high-impact” in the global alcohol action plan.

Progress with attainment of SDG health target 3.5 and new data will be presented and discussed, also by representatives of other UN entities and intergovernmental organizations. The fourth Forum will continue to serve as a platform for presenting and discussing international efforts in implementation of operational recommendations of the UNGASS 2016 on the world drug problem, and two sessions will be devoted to health consequences of non-medical cannabis use and current policy and programme responses.

More space at the fourth Forum will be devoted to public health dimensions of addictive behaviours with a focus on gambling and gaming, and there will be an opportunity to discuss the available data on their health impact as well as the policy responses in different jurisdictions.

The fourth WHO FADAB will serve as a forum to discuss new opportunities, frameworks, activities and plans for intensified international collaboration on public health dimensions of alcohol, drugs and addictive behaviours. These efforts align with WHO’s strategic objectives to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable.

We look forward to your participation and the fruitful discussions ahead at the fourth WHO FADAB.

The Forum is by invitation only.

You may be invited because:

... as a policymaker engaged in priority setting, development and evaluation of prevention and treatment strategies, you are keen to join a global forum that will lead to new partnerships and engagement with others to identify, develop and implement cutting-edge strategies and programmes

... as a healthcare provider or commissioner, you want to join a global forum sharing with and learning from your peers on sharpening and implementing new approaches for prevention, screening, and treatment interventions, and better understand how evidence-based prevention and treatment can be financed and implemented

... as a focal point for this area in a Permanent Mission in Geneva, you would like to know more about WHO activities, partnerships and other international efforts

... as an official of an intergovernmental organization, or a United Nations specialized agency, you want to take up the opportunity to join a global, united force, to meet other experts and influencers face-to-face, and to strengthen your networks

... as a representative of a professional association or other nongovernmental organization, you are eager to be part of a forum where you can interact with key players, seize advocacy opportunities, and better position your work in furthering policy and programme changes

... as an academic, you want to benefit from a global platform to explore avenues for knowledge translation, identify research gaps and join forces with new partners in developing and actioning new research agendas

... as a philanthropic foundation representative, you want to be part of a global movement that meets new players and opens new solutions for your foundation to improve health and well-being of populations

... as a representative of a public health oriented entity that is concerned with the scope and magnitude of public health problems related to alcohol, drugs and addictive behaviours, you would like to explore ways to better contribute to reduce these problems

For any enquiries, please contact us at the following:

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 791 47 88

E-mails: msd-ada@who.int or tarifa@who.int



EXIT THE MAZE OF
SUBSTANCE USE AND
ADDICTIVE BEHAVIOURS
FOR BETTER HEALTH

<https://www.who.int/teams/mental-health-and-substance-use/alcohol-drugs-and-addictive-behaviours/adab-forum>

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