



Non Communicable Diseases

Advocacy Update

May 2010

From IDF | UICC | WHF | The Union

www.ncdalliance.org

A HISTORIC MOMENT: A UN Summit on Non-Communicable Diseases



On May 13th 2010, the UN General Assembly voted in favour of a UN Resolution tabled by Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states calling for a UN Summit on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in September 2011. Over 100 countries, including USA, Brazil, Canada, Russia, China, India and the United Kingdom cosponsored the resolution, indicating that NCDs have become a global priority for world leaders and a core development issue on the global agenda.

The resolution calls on Member States and the international community to:

- convene a high-level meeting of the General Assembly in September 2011, with the participation of Heads of State and Government, on the prevention and control of NCDs;
- Include discussions on the rising incidence and the socio-economic impact of NCDs in developing countries during the 2010 MDG Review Summit;
- request the UN Secretary-General to prepare a global status report on NCDs, with a particular focus on the developmental challenges faced by developing countries.

Such a high-level event could be a catalyst for major change at a global level for all people living with NCDs. Civil society has a critical role to play in shaping the agenda for the Summit and in delivering concrete outcomes in partnership with governments, the UN system, international organisations, researchers, the private sector and communities. A global alliance of all sectors of society will be needed to turn around this serious epidemic.

Campaign efforts mobilize global support for the resolution



Four NCD federations: IDF, WHF, UICC and The Union, with member associations in more than 170 countries, have been actively advocating for the NCD Summit over the last year. In cooperation with other key organizations including the Framework Convention Alliance and the Global Alliance on Chronic Respiratory Diseases, over

1000 national member associations were mobilized during the campaign to ensure a high level of support. This NCD alliance has also worked closely with the WHO's NCDNet, launched in February 2010 and with a number of governments, especially the CARICOM (Caribbean) states who sponsored the resolution calling for the Summit.

Key actions include:

- **Writing to key countries in leadership positions:** Hundreds of letters have been sent to Heads of State, UN Ambassadors, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Health.
- **Calling upon national organizations to lobby their governments:** In many countries, including the United States, France, Denmark, Australia and the Netherlands, local NCD member associations have cooperated and developed joint campaigns for raising awareness of the Resolution and securing support.
- **Engaging high level contacts and media from around the world:** Support for the summit has been secured through meetings with top UN officials, Ministers, Ambassadors and Former Heads of State. Key media outlets such as CNN, Reuters and the Financial times have also been engaged.

Key NCD Resources

DIABETES

International Diabetes Federation:
www.idf.org

CANCER

International Union Against Cancer
www.uicc.org

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

World Heart Federation:
www.worldheart.org

CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASES

Global Alliance Against Chronic Respiratory Disease
www.who.int/respiratory/gard/
International Union Against TB and Lung Disease
www.theunion.org

TOBACCO

Framework Convention Alliance
www.fctc.org

OBESITY

International Association for the Study of Obesity
www.iaso.org

WHO NCD Network

www.who.int/ncdnet
www.who.int/nmh/en

www.ncdalliance.org

The way forward

The UN Resolution is a major achievement for civil society. The next challenge for the NCD community is to make effective use of this unique opportunity and turn global attention for NCDs into lasting improvements for people living with NCDs and prevent the further spread wherever possible.

- A summit has the potential to lead to major improvement for people living with NCDs. The NCD community should **advocate for clear outcomes** from the Summit. The NCD Summit must be more than a talking shop.
- The agreed text should be a global blueprint for addressing the challenge of NCDs, **building on the World Health Organization's 2008-2013 Action Plan for NCDs**.
- The NCD Summit will be a major opportunity to draw global attention to NCDs in low- and middle- income countries. The NCD community should continue to advocate for **funding for essential NCD medicines, technologies and care, strong prevention measures and health systems strengthening**.
- The resolution for the Summit advocates discussion of the NCDs at the September 2010 Review of the MDGs. The NCD community should pursue this recommendation and **ensure that NCDs are central to the successor goals to the MDGs**.

NCDs feature prominently on the UN Commission on Population and Development Meeting



As a result of continued advocacy efforts, NCDs were identified as a key issue during the UN Commission on Population and Development Meeting (UNCPD) on 12-16 April 2010 in New York. In the draft text of the final meeting outcome statement,

four paragraphs are dedicated to NCDs, which are described as a 'leading threat to human health and development'. This statement will directly input into the 2010 MDG Review Summit this September.

Of the 46 Member States represented in the Commission for Population and Development, 19 countries mentioned non-communicable diseases during the plenary, including Australia, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Japan and Korea. Peru explicitly called for inclusion of an NCD indicator in the Millennium Development Goals, which was also supported by a representative from the World Bank.

Upcoming Events

<input type="checkbox"/> World No Tobacco Day	31 May
<input type="checkbox"/> 63 rd World Health Assembly	17-21 May Geneva
<input type="checkbox"/> ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review Theme: "Gender equality and the empowerment of women"	28 June - 2 July New York
<input type="checkbox"/> UN Annual DPI/NGO Conference Theme: "Global Health"	30 Aug. - 1 Sept. Melbourne
<input type="checkbox"/> MDG Review Summit 65 th Session of the UN General Assembly	20-22 September New York
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd World Health Summit	10-13 October Berlin