

2017 cancer resolution - FAQs

1. What is the 2017 cancer resolution?

In May every year, Ministers of Health from all over the world come together in Geneva to discuss global health challenges and policy at the World Health Assembly (WHA), the decision-making body of the World Health Organisation (WHO). The agenda, set by WHO Member States, covers a wide range of health topics including emergency preparedness and response, antimicrobial resistance, road safety, global vaccine plans, communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and puts forward resolutions on key health issues to urge Member States and the WHO Secretariat to undertake specific actions. This year, for the first time since 2005, Member States will be discussing a [resolution](#) on “Cancer prevention and control in the context of an integrated approach.”

WHA resolutions tend to follow a similar format:

- **Outline of the issue** – in this case the cancer burden and global disparities in access to prevention, diagnosis, early detection, treatment and care.
- **Summary of other relevant WHA and global commitments** – including, for example, recent resolutions on palliative care, access to surgery and access to essential medicines.
- **List of actions and policy recommendations to be implemented by Member States** – (see question 3 for further details).
- **List of actions to be undertaken by the WHO Secretariat** under the leadership of the WHO Director General.

2. How was it developed

A side event co-hosted by UICC with a number of Member States, including Jordan, Malaysia, Zambia, Honduras, Kuwait and Spain, on “[Making the Right Investments for Cancer Control](#)” held at the 2016 World Health Assembly, concluded with a call for an updated cancer resolution that would establish the core disciplines and services for a holistic, impactful and scalable cancer response, adapted to the local burden, and aligned with national capacities.

This core group of Member States subsequently wrote a formal letter to the chair of the WHO Executive Board (EB) requesting that a cancer resolution be tabled as an agenda item at the January 2017 WHO EB, with a view to adoption of the resolution at the May 2017 WHA. The WHO Secretariat was subsequently tasked with developing a [background report](#) and zero-draft of the resolution for consideration by Member States at the January meeting.

3. What does it say?

The 2017 cancer resolution provides countries with guidance across the care continuum, from health promotion and risk factor reduction, with particular emphasis on the tobacco control policies laid out in the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control ([FCTC](#)) and anti-cancer vaccines, to the need to address inequity in access to early detection, timely and appropriate treatment, including pain relief and palliative

care. The resolution also includes an emphasis on evidence-based outcomes for all people living with cancer, and inclusion of the special population of children, adolescents and young adults with cancer.

New is the emphasis on integration of cancer efforts across national health plans and the call for scale up of activities in the line with the Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)). Specifically, the resolution identifies four key drivers for impacting on cancer mortality by 2025 that are supported by the updated WHO cost-effectiveness recommendations for non-communicable diseases (NCDs):

- Early diagnosis programmes for cervical, breast, colorectal and oral cancers
- Development of partnerships, referral networks and of centres of excellence for improving the quality of cancer diagnosis, treatment and care services and facilitating multidisciplinary cooperation
- Training of health professionals at all levels of health care, and
- Strengthening of palliative care and promotion of cancer survivor follow-up and rehabilitation.

4. How can I get involved?

With a 2017 cancer resolution on the WHA agenda, the global cancer community has an opportunity to put the global-to-national commitments message in the public domain. With this in mind, we have developed a [communications package](#) to support key opinion leaders, Member States, UICC members and partners express new commitments and actions stimulated by the 2017 cancer resolution. This package includes:

- A social media toolkit providing ready-made messages based on high-level facts highlighting global disparities, and advocacy messaging on the drivers for improving quality of cancer services, survival and quality of life, specifically in the areas of:
 - Planning, data and integration for health equity
 - Prevention
 - Early detection and diagnosis
 - Treatment and care
- A global template press release
- Twitter pocket guide

Please promote key 2017 cancer resolution messages in your networks through social media, tailoring it to fit your own national agenda and your own organisation's focus.

Helpful links

[Cancer Prevention and Control in the context of an integrated approach](#)

[Global Action Plan on the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013-2020 \(GAP\)](#)

[Draft update to Appendix 3 of the GAP](#)

[Sustainable development goals](#)

Additional questions? Contact the team via email at advocacy@uicc.org.