This September the United Nations gathered Heads of State and policy-makers at a special UN Summit to discuss the growing problem of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Immediately following the event, UICC gathered a cross-section of leaders in cancer control to share their initial reactions to the Summit with the objective of gathering a common understanding of the implications and opportunities for cancer control in the approved outcomes document (Political Declaration) and identifying immediate next steps to be taken forward as key messages to the World Cancer Leaders’ Summit on 18 November 2011.

The top five ‘take-home’ messages from the discussion

1. The Summit represents a seminal moment in the history of cancer. The event has been successful for the first time in placing cancer and other NCDs on the global political agenda, beyond the health sector, with a recognition that a whole of government and whole of society approach is required to fight the rising burden of NCDs. The cancer community is now ‘playing at a new level - another league’ and this should be celebrated.

2. Presenting a united front across different disease areas has been an important factor in the success achieved. The collaboration between different disease groups should be maintained moving forward. The NCD Alliance has been instrumental in creating cohesion and driving collaboration, and has achieved a great deal in a relatively short timeframe, including a strong media presence. The recognition of overlap with infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and the need for integration with existing health services across the board e.g. women and children’s health is now a powerful, shared and clear agenda for action moving forward to achieve the World Cancer Declaration targets by 2020.

3. The UN Political Declaration – while lacking important metrics for measuring progress and an accountability mechanism – does represent a basic roadmap for action which encompasses prevention, treatment and care and the human resources to deliver the services. The focus of the cancer community should now be on prioritising aspects of the Declaration, focusing on models which ensure regional differences are taken into account.

4. Collaboration across sectors and disciplines is essential. The continued involvement of the public, private and NGO sectors is crucial especially in the immediate future progressing the work on targets but also to push the economic message – we need a new spirit of accountability to avoid the US$ 47 trillion loss (75% of the global GDP in 2010 – to create a world which is very different.

5. The cancer community needs to engage the international development organisations engaged in the debate and activity. Accelerating the advocacy effort will help access development budgets as the UN Political Declaration has missed an opportunity to commit serious funds to NCDs. Recruitment of country champions and bilateral supporters are a priority.

“For action, we need data, surveillance, metrics and analysis.”

Dr Eduardo Cazap, President, UICC and Latin American and Caribbean Society of Medical Oncology
Key facts about the UN Summit on NCDs

- 34 heads of state present, 133 member states made statements
- Record number of civil society representatives took part – over 200
- Over 40 side events held – well attended by government delegations
- Specific commitments on NCDs were made by 43 member states such as NCD plans and establishment of NCD units
- Russia allocated US$ 60 million in LMICs
- Australia allocated US$ 3.9 million towards WHO’s NCD Action Plan – directed to Pacific Islands
- Strong focus on need for targets and accountability highlighted by Ban Ki-moon and HRH Princess Dina Mired at the opening plenary
- Good media coverage – over 1000 articles the week of UN Summit on NCDs in mainstream publications

The NCD Alliance is a success beyond expectations and is extremely powerful: Cancer and NCDs are now in the political agenda and in the media worldwide.

Professor Peter Piot, Director, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

 Supporters

The Global Roundtable Series has been made possible through Together we are Stronger, a UICC-led campaign benefitting the global cancer community. Together we are Stronger is supported by:

- American Cancer Society
- Varian
- Swiss Cancer League
- World Cancer Research Fund
- Dutch Cancer Society
- Roche
- Norwegian Cancer Society
- Pfizer
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Livestrong
- Open Society Institute
- Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund
- UICC Japan National Committee
- Elekta
- Lilly
- Cancer Council Australia
- Wiley
- Heng Rui Pharmaceuticals
- Sanofi
- Amgen
- MSD
- Boehringer Ingelheim
- Novartis
- Slender
- Nextech

Without resources, [the Political Declaration] will remain words and wonderful ideas on paper.

HRH Princess Dina, Director General, King Hussein Cancer Foundation
The Global Roundtable Series

This event was the first in UICC’s Global Roundtable Series, which will gather leaders in key cities around the world to discuss the most pressing issues in the cancer community.

Upcoming events:
- November 2011, Dublin, Ireland - Panel Discussion as part of the World Cancer Leaders’ Summit
- August 2012, Montreal, Canada - Roundtable Discussion as part of the World Cancer Congress

We have an exciting and interesting model of how UICC and WHO have intensified our collaboration. We have a workplan, with concrete measurable targets. Other partnership networks should be defined in this style.

Dr Andreas Ullrich, Medical Officer, World Health Organization, Programme on Cancer Control

Apart from UNAIDS, the only other disease-specific UN agency is IARC. This represents a great opportunity.

Dr Felicia Knaul, Director, Harvard Global Equity Initiative, Ass. Professor, Harvard Medical School

List of Participants

- Cary Adams, Chief Executive Officer, Union for International Cancer Control
- Dr Hilal Al Sayer, Minister of Health, Kuwait
- Dr Joan Benson, Executive Director, International Organizations, Medical Affairs and Policy, Merck
- Martin Bernhardt, Vice President, Relations with International Institutions, sanofi-aventis
- Dr Eduardo Cazap, President, UICC and Latin American and Caribbean Society of Medical Oncology
- Marilyn Gentry, Chief Executive Officer, World Cancer Research Fund
- James Hoey, Executive Vice President, Region North America, Elekta
- Dr Felicia Knaul, Director, Harvard Global Equity Initiative, Ass. Professor, Harvard Medical School
- Professor M. Tezer Kutluk, Chief Executive Officer, Turkish Association for Cancer Research and Control
- Dr Martine George, Vice President External Affairs, Oncology Business Unit, Pfizer
- Dr William Hait, Head of Oncology Worldwide, Janssen R&D
- Nina Hill, Vice President, Public Affairs, Oncology Business Unit, Pfizer
- Margaret Matrianni, Deputy Director, Breast Cancer Research Foundation
- John McCormack, Chief Executive Officer, Irish Cancer Society
- HRH Princess Dina Mired, Director General, King Hussein Cancer Foundation
- Prof. Rob Moodie, Professor of Global Health, Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne, Australia
- Professor Ian Olver, Chief Executive Officer, Cancer Council Australia
- David Palacios, Executive Director, Global Communications & Advocacy, Novartis
- Allan Pamba, Director Public Engagement & Access Initiatives Dev. Countries & Mrkt Acvs GlaxoSmithKline
- Professor Peter Piot, Director, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Dr Sung Poblete, President & CEO, SU2C, Entertainment Industry Foundation
- Anne Lise Ryel, Chief Executive Officer, Norwegian Cancer Society
- Michael Schoettler, Head, Global Health Policy and Public Affairs, Bayer
- Dr John Seffrin, Chief Executive Officer, American Cancer Society
- Dr Julie Torode Director, Programmes and Advocacy, Union for International Cancer Control, Switzerland
- Professor Murat Tuncer, Director of Cancer Control, Ministry of Health, Turkey
- Dr Andreas Ullrich, Medical Officer, World Health Organization, Programme on Cancer Control
- Andrew Whitman, Vice President, Government Affairs, Varian Medical Systems
- Miri Ziv Director General, Israel Cancer Association
- Dr Ursula Zybich, Head of Prevention, Swiss Cancer League

The public, the private and the NGO sector has to work together, but the NGO sector has the ABC: the ability to Advocate without conflict of interest, the ability to Build infrastructure and capacity and C to Collaborate.

Dr John Seffrin, Chief Executive Officer, American Cancer Society