

BACKGROUND TO THE WORLD CANCER DECLARATION 2013



Why Update the World Cancer Declaration?

Originally launched in 2006, the World Cancer Declaration (the Declaration) has helped to bring the growing cancer crisis to the attention of government leaders and health policy-makers, and to drive new government commitments in the global fight against cancer and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

In 2011, heads of state and governments adopted the United Nations Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of NCDs, which recognised NCDs as a global health and development priority. Success followed in 2012 with the adoption of a global target to reduce premature deaths from NCDs by 25% by 2025. In 2013, the foundations of a new global NCD architecture were put in place with the adoption of a Global Monitoring Framework for NCDs (GMF), a Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020 (GAP), and a Global Coordination Mechanism for NCDs.

In light of these groundbreaking developments in the fight against NCDs, and with the expiration of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) fast approaching, UICC saw a growing need to more closely align the Declaration with the emerging global NCD framework and the dialogue on the post-2015 development agenda.

"The IPOS Board applauds the inclusion of distress management in Target 8 of the refreshed World Cancer Declaration and the enhanced emphasis on people-centred care, multi-disciplinary treatment, patient self-determination and preventive action."

Barry D Bultz PhD, Jeff Dunn PhD, Jimmie C. Holland MD, Maggie Watson PhD, International Psycho-Oncology Society (IPOS)

What's new in the World Cancer Declaration 2013?

The language used in the Declaration has been updated to reflect current discourse in the public health and development arenas. Other specific changes to the Declaration include:

- The timeframe for achievement of the Declaration targets has been shifted from 2020 to 2025 to align with the GMF. Governments have already committed to take action to reduce premature deaths from NCDs by 25% by 2025; we believe the advocacy and programmatic efforts of the cancer community will be more powerful if we work to the same timeline.
- We now have 9 rather than 11 Declaration targets. The 9 Declaration targets contribute to the achievement of an overarching goal to reduce premature deaths from cancer, and improve quality of life and cancer survival rates.
- The original Declaration had two targets related to human resources for cancer prevention and control; these have been merged into one target to acknowledge the need for a comprehensive approach reflecting the linkages between training and education, and the challenges associated with the emigration of healthcare professionals.
- Target 3 which relates to cancer risk factors, has been expanded to cover the known cancer risk factors which are common to NCDs including tobacco consumption, overweight and obesity, unhealthy diet, alcohol intake, and physical inactivity. A new addition is the specific reference to UV radiation and exposure to asbestos made in the Declaration list of immediate actions.
- The text of the Declaration targets (specifically Targets 1 and 7), and list of immediate actions have been enhanced to acknowledge the importance of the quality of cancer care and emphasise the principles of equitable access to effective, safe patient-centred services.
- The text of the Declaration targets (specifically Targets 7 and 8), and list of immediate actions have been enhanced to acknowledge the impact of distress among cancer patients, their family members and carers, and highlight the need for improved psychosocial and supportive care.

HOW CAN UICC MEMBERS AND PARTNERS USE THE WORLD CANCER DECLARATION?



By more closely aligning the “refreshed” World Cancer Declaration with the emerging global NCD framework and post-2015 development discourse, UICC believes that the Declaration targets will resonate more widely, allowing the cancer community to reach out to non-traditional partners in the development, disability, education, employment and many other sectors for innovative partnership.

The Declaration provides governments, UN agencies, civil society, relevant private sector and other key stakeholders with a shared vision on which to build collaborative partnerships to address the global cancer burden.

Calling for a partnership approach is important to many. For example:

“The World Cancer Declaration has the potential to bring together stakeholders with different expertise and roles, who are committed to integrating the fight against cancer into the global health agenda. Disparities of access to care for cancer patients are too high. Taking this vision to action is a shared responsibility and a mutual accountability to reduce cancer mortality.”

Caty Forget, Managing Director, Sanofi Espoir Foundation

More specifically, UICC encourages the World Cancer Declaration to be used:

- To urge governments to implement policies and programmes that the cancer community knows will be successful if they are adequately resourced and embedded within national cancer and NCD plans.
- To reach out beyond health ministries to gain the political backing of all sectors of government. Using the Declaration together with resource-appropriate and culturally relevant examples of successful implementation of policies outside of health is critical to ensuring a whole-of-government response to the cancer crisis.
- To continue pressing for cancer and other NCDs to be embedded within the next generation of internationally agreed development goals.

A sense of urgency has been emphasised by many of our members:

“The World Cancer Declaration provides a framework for cancer advocates to open dialogue and draw government attention to the need to step up their response to the national cancer and NCD burden now, the cost of inaction is too great.”

Professor Isaac Adewole, President, African Organisation for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC)

UICC’s updated Advocacy Toolkit will include detailed and practical guidance for UICC members on how the Declaration can be used to frame and strengthen their advocacy and programmatic efforts.



WHAT NEXT?



Recent advocacy successes in the NCD arena, and the eConsultation process to update the Declaration have reaffirmed the importance and need for establishing a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating progress against the Declaration:

“The World Cancer Declaration provides a solid set of visionary targets that aim to reduce the global cancer burden by the year 2025. However, to measure our success in the coming years, clear indicators should be developed for each target and reviewed periodically.” Jamal Khader, King Hussein Cancer Center and UICC Board of Directors

“The World Cancer Declaration targets and immediate actions are now far more relevant to the NCD agenda and cover the main areas of concern. It will now be useful to explore how the targets will be monitored to have clarity on how they can be measured.” Dr Jean King, Cancer Research UK

As such, UICC recognises that there is further work to be done in developing an agreed framework for measurement. Recent developments in the NCD arena have however provided us with a strong foundation on which to build. UICC members and partners welcomed the inclusion in the GMF and GAP of cancer-specific targets, indicators, and actions that are closely aligned with the Declaration; it represented a significant win for the cancer community.

The 9 global voluntary NCD targets set out in the GMF, to be achieved by 2025, include:

- A 25% relative reduction in risk of premature mortality from NCDs
- At least 10% reduction in the harmful use of alcohol
- A 10% relative reduction in prevalence of insufficient physical activity
- A 30% relative reduction in prevalence of current tobacco use in persons aged 15+ years
- Halt in the rise in diabetes and obesity
- An 80% availability of affordable basic technologies and essential medicines



In addition to indicators for each of the aforementioned NCD risk factors, the GMF outlines a set of cancer-specific indicators including:

- Cancer incidence, by type of cancer per 100,000 population
- Access to palliative care assessed by morphine-equivalent consumption of strong opioid analgesics (excluding methadone) per death from cancer
- Proportion of women between the ages of 30–49 screened for cervical cancer at least once, or more often and for lower or higher age groups according to national programmes or policies
- Vaccination coverage against hepatitis B virus monitored by number of doses of Hep-B-vaccine (HepB3) administered to infants
- Availability as appropriate of cost-effective, affordable, human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines, according to national programmes and policies

The emergence of new initiatives and partnerships in cancer prevention and control, such as the Global Initiative for Cancer Registry Development in low- and middle-income countries (GICR), which tracks the coverage and quality of population-based cancer registries (www.gicr.iarc.fr) and the International Cancer Control Partnership (ICCP), which maps the status of national cancer control plans and NCD plans (www.iccp-portal.org) provide new opportunities for monitoring progress globally and has provided governments and the broader cancer community with mechanisms to monitor and evaluate progress against the Declaration Targets 1 and 2 in particular.

Nevertheless, in order to drive government action across the full cancer care continuum reflected in the Declaration, there are still a number of areas in which further work is needed by the cancer community to develop, agree and advocate for global recognition of additional quantifiable targets and indicators, particularly with relation to health systems strengthening, quality treatment and care, and human resource development for cancer prevention and control.



A CALL TO ACTION

In order to advance this work, UICC plans to draw on the wealth of expertise and knowledge across the breadth of its membership and partners, to develop a comprehensive framework for the monitoring and evaluation of all Declaration targets. At the World Cancer Congress in 2016, we pledge to share an Interim World Cancer Declaration Report, highlighting progress since the launch in 2008 using targets and indicators that have now been secured in the GMF and pressing for improvements and additional measurables where needed. This report will draw heavily on the input and leadership of UICC members and partners in its development, so we will be looking to you to work with us in bringing this project to fruition.

**For further information,
please contact:** advocacy@uicc.org or visit
www.uicc.org/world-cancer-declaration

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