Fostering international collaboration

We often get asked a question from our members and other organisations working in cancer control: How can we become more engaged internationally? UICC has been working with members and partners on a number of very successful initiatives that we showcase here, with the intention of inspiring global action, promoting best practices and helping reinforce national agendas by collaborating with others.

Currently, there are about 15 million new cancer cases diagnosed each year and 8.8 million cancer deaths – more than HIV, malaria and tuberculosis combined. Approximately 70% of these deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and the number of new cases is expected to rise over the next two decades unless we make significant progress to reverse this trend. As a collective, we therefore need to do more.

Cancer is a complex disease and to tackle it more effectively requires a global, regional, national and multidisciplinary response. Working internationally is an investment that generates long-term benefits. It is a means to accelerate the pace of action, unleash new advances in cancer control and push for greater recognition of the disease in the global health and development agenda, which in turn has a positive impact on national priorities. Collaboration is therefore not only justified - it is vital.

UICC’s mission is 'to unite the cancer community to reduce the global cancer burden, to promote greater equity, and to integrate cancer control into the world health and development agenda'. This guide has been designed with this in mind and to provide a pool of ideas to support cancer organisations in further delivering the targets of the World Cancer Declaration and achieving greater impact working internationally.

By working internationally organisations can:

- Amplify the work they do by bringing it to the attention of key decision makers around the world
- Increase their organisation’s recognition and profile; expand their network and reach
- Stimulate idea generation and peer-to-peer support
- Shape cancer policies generating a long-lasting footprint in other parts of the world.
Target 17 of the SDGs highlights that **stronger commitment to partnership and cooperation is needed to achieve the SDGs.**

As convenors of the global cancer community, UICC is able to offer clear examples of how joining forces across a wide range of stakeholders (i.e. members, partners, UN agencies and other networks) at the international level can bring concrete achievements such as:

- **The successful inclusion of NCDs in the Sustainable Development Goals (2016-2030)**
- **Adoption of the 2017 cancer resolution and 2014 palliative care resolution** by working closely with WHO and member states to recognise cancer as a priority in the global health agenda
- **Most significant review and expansion of the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines**, including the methodology for countries to identify and adopt nationally
- **Establishment of the WHO List of Priority Medical Devices** for Cancer Management
- **Working with the global NCD community to bring about the 2011 High-level Meeting on NCDs** and subsequent review meetings in 2014 and 2018
- **Founding the NCD Alliance**, in collaboration with World Heart Federation, International Diabetes Federation and The Union
- **Expanding participation, engagement and impact** by convening and connecting the world’s cancer and NCD communities in signature global platforms
- **Strengthening capacity building opportunities** to help member organisations become stronger through partnership support, fellowships, grants, leadership development globally and locally
- **Jointly establishing the McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer**
- **Launching the International Cancer Control Partnership**, coordinating a network of 28 national and international organisations.

All of these achievements would not have been possible without the support of UICC’s community of members and partners who understand the value of working together for increased impact at the international level.
The journey of engagement

UICC identifies three main areas of collaboration and encourages organisations to engage where it’s best aligned with your own strategy and objectives.

**Recognition**
- Become a member or a partner
- Showcase your knowledge and expertise at international events
- Content contribution and representation in the international arena
- Maximise your World Cancer Day presence by engaging with the campaign at a partner level
- Host an international event
- Be part of the UICC community, interacting with the UICC team and other members and partners
- Your organisation on the global stage
- Exclusive invitations and discounts to the World Cancer Congress and World Cancer Leaders’ Summit
- International recognition in one of the largest awareness days with over 10 billion opportunities to see, hear or read about World Cancer Day

**Leveraging complementary assets**
- Secondments and in-kind support
- Supporting and hosting fellowships
- Running workshops and training
- Offering mentorship and technical assistance
- Develop young leaders
- Organisational twinning
- Joining international committees and boards
- Host international staff on your premises and contribute locally to regional development
- Join forces in your region to create a regional alliance or network
- Become a global publication partner
- Run a Master Course
- Augment organisational capacities and contribute to professional development
- Support other organisations to do a better job tomorrow than they are already doing today
- Peer-to-peer engagement, networking, exchange of ideas or skills
- Provide strategic direction to UICC and represent your region and organisation at an international level
- Education and training - benefit from technical knowledge or help others acquire it
- Contribute to the publication of a global public good
- Help guide the cancer control leaders of tomorrow
- Shape new campaigns
- Opportunity to diagnose and treat more people
- Reduce the healthcare worker gap

**Shaping the global agenda**
- Become a global advocacy partner
- Join the Treatment for All campaign
- Be a stakeholder in global initiatives such as C/Can 2025: City Cancer Challenge, International Cancer Control Partnership
- Create national, regional or global alliances
- Contribute to policy change
- Global commitments are transferred into national action
- A stronger and unified voice in pressing for priorities internationally

**Means of engagement**

**Value derived**
Start your journey

- Contact the UICC Membership Team and join our network of over 1,000 organisations from 166 countries
- Reach out to the UICC Partnership Team and maximise your impact at the international level
- Be active on the global stage and engage in one of our key convening opportunities like the World Cancer Leaders’ Summit, World Cancer Congress and World Cancer Day
- Improve your skills by taking part in UICC’s capacity building opportunities to work better tomorrow than you do today
- Contribute to translating global commitments into national actions by joining the Treatment for All advocacy campaign.

Join us
Contact membership@uicc.org to be part of the journey of international collaboration.

“Although Cancerfonden operates in Sweden we need to learn and exchange experience and knowledge of cancer issues in a global perspective. Cancer has no borders therefore cooperation is necessary to be able to beat cancer both nationally and internationally. UICC provides platforms for collaboration and is an important hub for this.”
Sanna Wärn, UICC member, Sweden

“At UICC we believe our members are key actors in reducing the cancer burden. By fostering international collaboration we can collectively contribute to decreasing the impact of cancer in countries around the world and encourage members to start a conversation with us on how we can work together.”
Sanchia Aranda, President, UICC