INTRODUCTION TO UICC

UICC unites 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.

A membership organisation founded in 1933 and based in Geneva, UICC’s growing membership of over 880 organisations across 155 countries features the world’s major cancer societies, ministries of health, research institutes and patient groups. Together with its members, key partners, the World Health Organization, The International Agency for Research on Cancer and others, UICC is tackling the growing cancer crisis on a global scale.

WORLD CANCER DECLARATION

Next year alone, nearly 9 million people are likely to die of cancer*, and left unchecked, the number of deaths will increase to 13 million per year by 2030. UICC is committed to reducing the global cancer burden through delivering the targets of the World Cancer Declaration.

THIS CALL TO ACTION SETS OUT 9 TARGETS TO BE ACHIEVED BY 2025 WITH THE OVERARCHING GOAL TO REDUCE CANCER DEATH BY 25% BY 2025:

GOVERNANCE

UICC is governed by its member organisations, which meet in a General Assembly, held in conjunction with the World Cancer Congress, every two years. Between assemblies, a board of 17 directors, elected by the General Assembly act as the executive body of UICC.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

UICC works closely with key international UN agencies including: the World Health Organization (WHO), with whom we are in official relations, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT), and has consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In addition to this, UICC offers corporate partners a unique opportunity to demonstrate social responsibility on a global scale.
A VISIONARY CAMPAIGN

UICC is committed to delivering the targets of the World Cancer Declaration through strategic partnerships involving members and other institutions interested in fighting cancer. Together we aim to save millions of lives by focusing on three priority areas:

CONVENING THE GLOBAL CANCER CONTROL COMMUNITY

In parallel to targeted local and regional activities, our focus is to convene leaders, encourage collaboration and new thinking through:

• World Cancer Congress - held every two years, the next event will take place in Paris, France from 31 October to 3 November 2016 and will be attended by over 2,700 representatives from cancer societies, government ministers, the private sector and patient groups. The Congress serves as a platform for discourse and advocacy as well as a learning and sharing opportunity for our members and partners around the world.

• Global Roundtable Series, with key meetings scheduled for Europe, Latin America and Asia; these exclusive events will respond to the most pressing topics including the outcomes from the UN High-level Meeting on Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs), tackling cervical cancer and cancer in children.

• World Cancer Leaders’ Summit is an important annual high-level policy meeting dedicated exclusively to furthering global cancer control. It convenes key players from among UICC’s membership and network, health ministers and leaders of international businesses.

• World Cancer Day - UICC is working to continue and expand on the success and impact of 4th February. We are committed to ensuring that year-on-year World Cancer Day is seen and heard by more people, presenting an urgent and unified message to our members and partners around the world.

PUTTING CANCER ON THE GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

UICC is a leading voice for cancer control and the organisation’s reputation for for independence and objectivity has been earned over many decades. We guard our ‘trusted advisor’ status as one of our most valuable assets. Our independence ensures that UICC led advocacy efforts and education initiatives reach the highest levels of government, the private sector and civil society.

Our advocacy goals are clear:

• Press for cancer control to be included in the post-2015 development agenda.

• Encourage governments to fulfill their commitments from the UN High-level Meeting on NCDs, with a special focus on the importance of national cancer control plans and surveillance.

• Support WHO to develop robust systems for measuring progress against targets, ensuring governments can be held accountable.

COORDINATING HIGH IMPACT GLOBAL CAPACITY-BUILDING PROJECTS

UICC’s global capacity-building projects focus on five priority areas and target advocacy, education and training, as well as in-country activities in collaboration with partners and local UICC members.

• GICR (Global Initiative for Cancer Registries) aims to increase the number and quality of population-based cancer registries in low-and middle-income countries. Working in collaboration with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), UICC will roll-out hubs of excellence.

• GETI (Global Education and Training Initiative) facilitates the professional development of oncology healthcare workers and global leaders in cancer control. Through targeted fellowships, workshops and training the programme helps develop future leaders in cancer control and influence healthcare policy and practice across each of our priority programmes.

• ChiCa (Childhood Cancer) - This programme seeks to ensure decision-makers around the world understand the importance of early treatment of cancer in children. The programme is developing resources to help governments, particularly in low-and middle-income countries, improve the way they respond to this issue.

• GAPRI (Global Access to Pain Relief Initiative) seeks to make essential pain medicines universally available. Providing direct support to more government ministries around the world, GAPRI aims to simplify the complicated international regulations around the distribution and use of morphine.

• CCI (Cervical Cancer Initiative) aims to advocate for cervical cancer to become a priority at the highest level, increase access to prevention, screening and treatment services and develop crucial information on the cost of scaling up cervical cancer control activities.

PUBLICATIONS

• TNM - In 1953, UICC adopted the TNM classification of malignant tumours created by Dr Pierre Denoix. Today, TNM is the global standard for cancer staging, and through the TNM classification project led by Dr Leslie Sobin and Prof. Mary Gospodarowicz, UICC regularly reviews and updates it.

• UICC also publishes the Manual of Clinical Oncology, a concise and accessible reference tool on cancer detection, diagnosis and treatment.

• The International Journal of Cancer, UICC’s official journal, is a leading publication in experimental and clinical cancer research. It is renowned for publishing epidemiological studies from around the world, to a magnitude not found anywhere else in oncology-related literature.

* all cancers excluding non-melanoma skin cancers

(Globocan 2012; http://globocan.iarc.fr)