



Ageing, Alzheimer's disease/dementias and caregiving in NCD Summit 2011 Outcomes

Seventy five per cent of the 35 million deaths from NCDs worldwide affect people aged 60 and over, the majority of whom live in low- and middle-income countries¹. The rapid increase predicted in the number of older people in the developing world from 473 million in 2009 to 1.6 billion in 2050² makes addressing older people's needs regarding NCDs an urgent priority.

The UN High Level Meeting on non-communicable diseases can be a critical moment for rallying global efforts to meet the needs of all age groups affected by NCDs. The proposals on the table have the potential to help shift the behaviour of millions of people to healthier lifestyles and provide much needed healthcare, treatment and support.

UN Member States' efforts to tackle NCDs will be strengthened greatly by ensuring the following:

- Ageing is recognised as a key driver of NCDs and active steps are taken to address people's health needs across the life-course;
- Health planning focuses on preventable morbidity and death without setting arbitrary age limits for good health;
- Mental and neurological diseases, including Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, are recognised as an important cause of morbidity that contribute to the global NCD burden and that NCD prevention programmes and health care interventions provide equitable access to effective programmes for these illnesses;
- Palliative care and support provision is scaled up alongside preventive and curative measures for NCDs;
- Follow-up to the commitments made at the NCD High Level Meeting include specific indicators relevant to older age groups.

We welcome the progress made so far to address these issues as reflected in the draft Political Statement. These commitments also need to be reflected in national NCD plans that Member States will develop.

We believe that unless Member States' policy and practice to tackle NCDs reach older as well as younger age groups, there will be little cause for celebration when these commitments are reviewed in the coming years.

¹ World Health Organisation: "Raising the priority of non-communicable diseases in development work at global and national levels". WHO Presentation 2010

² World Population Ageing 2009, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, December 2009.

Joint Statement by:



AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan social welfare organization with a membership that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. AARP is dedicated to enhancing quality of life for all as we age. We lead positive social change and deliver value to members through advocacy, service, and information. www.aarpinternational.org



Age UK is the new force combining Age Concern and Help the Aged. We help people to enjoy a better later life – in the UK and in 40 other countries – by providing life-enhancing services and vital support. www.ageuk.org.uk



Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) was formed in 1984 and now is the umbrella for 76 national Alzheimer's Associations across the globe. Our vision is to improve the quality of life for people with dementia and their families throughout the world. ADI is a forum through which established and emerging Alzheimer associations can learn from one another to meet the needs of people with dementia and their carers. www.alz.co.uk



HelpAge International helps older people claim their rights, challenge discrimination and overcome poverty, so that they can lead dignified, secure, active and healthy lives. www.helpage.org



The Global Coalition on Aging aims to reshape how global leaders approach and prepare for the 21st century's profound shift in population aging. The Coalition uniquely brings together global corporations across industry sectors with common strategic interests in aging populations, a comprehensive and systemic understanding of aging, and an optimistic view of its impact. www.globalcoalitiononaging.com



The International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG) is a non-profit organization that brings together professionals from 71 national gerontological and geriatrics associations from 64 countries involved in age-related issues from biological to social gerontology, to promote the highest levels of achievement of gerontological research and training worldwide. www.iagg.info



The International Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing (IAHSA) represents more than 20,000 ageing services providers worldwide who serve almost 5 million elderly daily. www.iahsa.net



The International Federation on Ageing (IFA) is an international non-governmental organization with a membership base of NGOs, the corporate sector, academia, government, and individuals. The IFA believes in 'generating positive change for older people throughout the world by stimulating, collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information on rights, policies, and practices that improve the quality of life of people as they age. www.ifa-fiv.org



The International Longevity Centre-UK is the leading think tank on longevity and demographic change. It is an independent, non-partisan think-tank dedicated to addressing issues of longevity, ageing and population change. We develop ideas, undertake research and create a forum for debate. www.ilcuk.org.uk



The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) is an independent, nonprofit organization founded in 1997 aiming to increase society's ability, through international collaboration, to recognize and respond to the mistreatment of older people. www.inpea.net



The Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance (WPCA) is a global action network focusing exclusively on hospice and palliative care development worldwide. Its members are national and regional hospice and palliative care organizations and affiliate organizations supporting hospice and palliative care. www.thewpca.org