



PRESENTED DURING THE
UICC World Cancer Congress
July 8 - 12, 2006 — Washington, DC, USA

Preamble

We, the participants from 139 countries, from governments, foundations, national and international non-governmental organizations, professional bodies, academia and civil society from all continents, assembled in Washington DC, USA to participate in the 2006 World Cancer Congress on July 8-12, 2006 recognize that:

- Currently, approximately 11 million people worldwide are diagnosed with cancer, and almost 7 million people die of the disease each year. Additionally, more than 25 million people are surviving for years after a cancer diagnosis;
- By 2020, more than 16 million new cancer cases and 10 million cancer deaths are expected annually. Seventy percent of these deaths will likely occur in developing countries that are unprepared to address their growing cancer burden;
- It is now possible to make dramatic worldwide strides against cancer—even in the poorest countries—through public health efforts targeting prevention and early detection, as well as advances in cancer treatment. The opportunity for collective action has never been greater and the need has never been more urgent;
- The new vision of the world cancer control community is a world where cancer is eliminated as a major threat for future generations. It is a world where cancer control knowledge and competencies are equitable, shared and accessible, where new scientific findings are transferred to clinical settings, where disparities in prevention, early detection, treatment, and cure of cancers are systematically reduced and eventually eliminated, and where all cancer patients receive the best possible care.
- Such an outcome calls for a global movement that makes cancer control an important worldwide priority of this decade. It will require a massive, focused, and determined effort to stimulate the global cancer community across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to join forces in carrying the initiative forward to every region of the world.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Declaration is to build on the Charter of Paris 2000 and call for urgent action to address the worldwide cancer burden. Progress reports on the actions in this Declaration will be provided to assist in the development of future World Cancer Declarations which will come out of every World Cancer Congress.

CALL TO ACTION

CRITERIA

Actions are achievable in the next 2-3 years

Actions can be monitored

Actions are evidence-based

Actions can be implemented in middle and low-income countries

Actions are high priority and need emphasis

The number of actions are limited

WE ISSUE THIS CALL TO ACTION WHICH REQUIRES PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS, PRIVATE SECTOR, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT THE STRATEGIES OUTLINED BELOW BY THE NEXT WORLD CANCER CONGRESS IN 2008.

INVESTING IN HEALTH

- Identify arguments that make the case that a country's investment in solving the cancer problem is an investment in the health of the population and therefore an investment in the economic health of the country.
- Create new opportunities to consistently deliver a set of compelling messages that can be tailored to different country settings and to traditional (e.g., public, media, politicians) and non-traditional partners (e.g., business, finance, agriculture).

CANCER CONTROL PLANNING

- Increase the number of countries that have national cancer control plans covering cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, palliative care, and support for cancer patients, their families and caregivers. These plans should be realistic and appropriate to country conditions and include dedicated budgets for implementation.

CANCER SURVEILLANCE/REGISTRIES

- Increase the number of countries with viable and adequately funded cancer surveillance systems, including cancer registries. These systems should collect and analyze data on the magnitude of cancer burden and its likely future evolution, prevalence and trends in risk factors, mortality, person-years of life lost, and survival and monitor the effects of prevention, early detection/screening, treatment and palliative care.

TOBACCO CONTROL

- Increase the number of countries implementing strategies that have been identified as being successful in the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), such as price and tax measures; protection from exposure to tobacco smoke; regulation of tobacco products; tobacco use cessation; restriction of tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship; strengthening tobacco product packaging and labeling; controlling illicit trade of tobacco products; and banning sales to and by minors.

VACCINES

- Develop a collaborative international plan for implementing HPV vaccination programs in low and middle income countries where the burden of cervical cancer is high which outlines specific actions to reduce costs and provide public and professional education, public policy and research.
- Integrate Hepatitis B vaccine with other routine infant vaccination programs in countries, particularly those with high rates of liver cancer.

EARLY DETECTION/TREATMENT

- All countries should adopt appropriate evidence-based guidelines for early detection and treatment programs and deliver relevant priority actions tailored to different socioeconomic, cultural and resource settings. Concurrent with these services should be national public and health professional education programs which stress the benefits of early detection. Additional investments in health services infrastructure may be required for the extra disease burden resulting from early detection.

PALLIATIVE CARE

- Increase the number of countries with national cancer control programs that make pain relief and palliative care an essential service in all cancer treatment institutions and home-based care, including access to opioids such as oral morphine, symptom control, psychological support and family support.

MOBILIZING INDIVIDUALS FOR ACTION

- Increase the number of opportunities that empower people living with cancer and those touched by cancer to fully participate in community, regional, and country cancer control efforts. Examples include training (e.g., media and advocacy) and partnership development (e.g., coalition building and collaboration) that create compelling voices for action.

SUPPORT OF ACTION STEPS

- Develop and implement a process for the monitoring of these actions and development of future actions which includes evaluation of progress, reports on progress and identification of roles of organizations working in international cancer control.

Go to website for the
World Cancer
Declaration at a
Glance.

A full version with
rationale and
references will be
available soon.

Check this website for
annual progress
updates on the Actions.

For information and updates:
www.worldcancercongress.org