

ADI Intervention regional WHO meetings

Distinguished delegates,

My name is Jean Georges and I represent Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI), the global federation of Alzheimer associations who support people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and their families. I also represent Alzheimer Europe that is affiliated with ADI and is the federation that coordinates the work of the associations in the European region.

The number of people with these diseases was estimated at 36 million worldwide in the report you launched in April 2012 and with one new case every 4 seconds, the number will almost double in the next 20 years and again in the 20 years after, all due to ageing of the population. This means that in the next 40 years, over 600 million people will live with dementia.

Dementia does not only have a huge impact to the person affected, but also to the family. On average there are three family members involved in care giving for every person with dementia. This is particularly the case in lower and middle income countries, where already the majority of the cases take place today.

A new ADI report that will come out this month shows that dementia accounts for 50% of the needs for long-term care for the elderly, so it has an overwhelming impact on our health and social systems and this impact is still growing.

Alzheimer's disease was recognized in the Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on NCDs in September 2011 as *"...an important cause of morbidity and contribute to the global non-communicable disease burden, for which there is a need to provide equitable access to effective programmes and health-care interventions."* Still, concrete actions regarding Alzheimer's and dementia is the missing piece in a number of big health action plans, like the NCD Plan 2013-2020 and the Mental Health Action Plan.

The 2012 report, Dementia: A Public Health Priority is now available in English and Chinese language and Spanish, Arabic and Russian versions will follow soon. We believe this report contains valuable tools and examples for all countries and underline the recommendation that every country should develop a national dementia plan or strategy. There are now ten countries around the world with such a plan, including six from Europe, and a few more have announced they are working on it. We would like all other countries to work on it as well and have created some more tools to learn from existing plans.

ADI and Alzheimer Europe suggest that we focus on a basic need for health providers, public health practitioners and individuals and families for accurate information about dementia and that we collaborate on updating country and regional web sites with information under A-Z health topic information everywhere. A first step could be to do this on website of the WHO Euro region.

Thanks for your attention.