

Distinguished delegates. My name is Marc Wortmann and I am the Executive Director of Alzheimer's Disease International. ADI is the global umbrella organisation of Alzheimer associations worldwide, in official relations with WHO since 1996.

An estimated 38 million persons are living with dementia worldwide, roughly the same number as those living with HIV/AIDS. The largest numbers of these have Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder, which creates memory loss, confusion, disorientation to time and place, which, when it progresses, leave the person unable to work or care for themselves over the course of several years. Left unsolved, this number will grow to 65 million by 2030, and the largest amount of that growth will occur in lower and middle income countries, with related economic hardship and challenges at the family and health care systems level.

Let me call to your attention three areas which require in we stand ready to partner with EURO and national governments represented here today

First, we are very proud to have partnered with WHO to produce the newly published report *Dementia a Global Health Priority*. It is in the process of being translated into each of the official WHO languages, and dissemination. A key policy recommendation in this report calls for the creation of national and sub national dementia plans, and we stand by to work with countries that wish to do so. In addition we ask this assembly to set aside time for its own learning and planning about dementia in the region, first through a workshop at EURO headquarters to look at how dementia issues connect to ongoing work, and then a report from staff on that workshop findings at this meeting next year.

Second, the UN High political declaration on non-communicable disease last year called for recognition of Alzheimer's disease and dementia as a major NCD. (66L.1, 18). At this moment, the WHO is considering the global monitoring framework for NCD's in which for very practical reasons dementia is not yet included. ADI supports the draft monitoring framework, especially because of the growing consensus that dementia shares most of the same risk factors as the other NCD's. A complete paper on risk is available for your consideration, but the simplest way to think about it is what's good for the heart is good for the brain.

Last, we ask that age as a driving force in NCD's and dementia be recognized in the 2013-2020 WHO NCD plan as draft documents for this plan do not yet include even a mention of this 38 million person health threat. In addition, WHO should add the existence of national Alzheimer's or dementia plan approved by government into the STEPS survey.

The NCD plan should call for a multisectoral approach to rapidly identify evidence informed dementia surveillance tools that could be adopted into country level surveillance systems. ADI will support this effort with its time and expertise from around the world as we did with the global report. In turn, when measurement systems are more secure, we urge the adoption of an outcome target for dementia: reduce the number of person's living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia by 10% from current projections, comparable with the outcome target for diabetes. Thanks very much for your attention.