



**Alzheimer's Disease  
International**  
*The global voice on dementia*  
— 30 YEARS —

**Statement on behalf of Alzheimer's Disease International at Regional Committee meeting for WHO Europe 14/17 September 2015. Agenda item 5(c) Priorities for health systems strengthening in the WHO European Region 2015–2020: walking the talk on people centredness**

My name is Vanessa Challinor and I represent Alzheimer Europe and Alzheimer's Disease International, the umbrella organizations of associations of people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and their families. Dementia has a big impact on someone's personal life and of that of their families, but also to societies.

According to the World Alzheimer Report 2015, released on 25 August this year, there are currently around 47 million people living with dementia, with numbers projected to increase to 75 million in by 2030 and 132 million by 2050. There are over 9.9 million new cases of dementia each year worldwide, implying one new case every 3.2 seconds.

The current annual societal economic cost is US\$ 818 billion, reaching a trillion dollars in just three years time. If global dementia care were a country, it would be the 18<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world, exceeding the market values of companies such as Apple (US \$742 billion) and Google (US\$ 368 billion).

For Europe, the numbers are 10.5 million in 2015, 13.4 million by 2030 and 18.7 million by 2050, with 2.5 million new cases and an annual cost estimation of \$301 billion or €270 billion in 2015. There is growing recognition that dementia is a health systems issue in all countries, for when people have difficulties in thinking and remembering and have other chronic illness, their impairments affect the outcomes of their self-care routines.

The WHO has launched the report "Dementia: A Public Health Priority" in 2012 and convened the first Ministerial Conference on Dementia in March of this year in Geneva. At this conference a call for action was agreed among the 89 countries and over 40 NGOs that attended. We would like to see this commitment formalised in a resolution at the World Health Assembly 2016. If any minister here would like to be part of this effort, please see me at the end of this session.

A resolution can create commitment from WHO at all levels – international, regional and national – member states and NGOs and it can be a framework for responsibilities of all these partners. It can also relate the work on dementia to other existing programmes like the NCD Plan 2013-2020 and the Mental Health Plan, the emerging Global Ageing strategy and mhGAP guidelines as well as the ongoing human rights dialogue in Geneva and in countries.

The World Alzheimer Report 2015 also highlights the seismic impact of dementia's rising prevalence, incidence and cost on Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs). It is estimated that 58% of all people living with dementia today reside in LMICs, rising to 68% by 2050. For awareness in these countries a formal position of WHO is very crucial.

Thank you!