

The Bahia Call for Action

Addressing the Urgent Need for Prevention and Control of Diabetes and Related Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases.

The Diabetes Summit for Latin America was organised through a collaborative effort of the World Diabetes Foundation, the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), Regional office of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Brazilian Ministry of Health between 30th June and 2nd July 2010 in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil.

The Summit was attended by multiple stakeholders from the region and addressed by the Honourable Minister of Health Brazil, Mr. Jose Gomes Temporão, through a pre recorded video message, the President of the International Diabetes Federation, Prof. Jean Claude Mbanya, the Chairman of the World Diabetes Foundation Prof. Pierre Lefèbvre; the Senior Public Health Specialist Human Development Unit of the World Bank, Washington, USA, Dr. Luis Orlando Perez, and Dr Griffin Rodgers, Director, National Institute of Diabetes Digestive and Kidney Diseases, (NIDDK) Bethesda USA, Dr Roger Glass, Director, Fogarty International Centre NIH, Bethesda USA.

Dr Jorge Jose Solla, State Health Secretary Bahia, Brazil welcomed and greeted the participants on behalf of the Governor of Bahia His Excellency Mr Jaques Wagner.

The address of the Assistant Director General, Non-communicable diseases and Mental Health, WHO Geneva, Dr. Ala Alwan addressed the summit through a pre recorded video message and the address of the Director of PAHO Dr Mirta Roses Periago was presented in her absence by Dr. James Hospedales, Senior Advisor, prevention and control of Chronic diseases PAHO.

The participants recall:

- Resolution CSP26.R15 (2002) on the public health response to chronic diseases, which recognizes the heavy economic and social burden of non-communicable diseases and calls for increased and coordinated technical cooperation from the Pan American Health Organization.
- Resolution WHA 56.1, Framework Convention on Tobacco control (2003).
- Resolution WHA57.17, Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity, and Health (2004), which emphasizes an integrated approach and inter-sectoral collaboration to improve diet and increase physical activity.
- Resolution CD47.R9 (2006), Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on an Integrated Approach to the Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases including Diet, Physical Activity and Health, which called for integrated action to prevent and reduce burden of chronic diseases and related risk factors in the Americas.
- United Nations General Assembly Resolution 61/225, World Diabetes Day (2006), which recognizes diabetes as a chronic, debilitating and costly disease associated with major complications that pose severe risks for families, countries and the entire world and designates 14 November, the current World Diabetes Day, as a United Nations Day to be observed every year beginning in 2007.
- Resolution WHA61.23, Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs): Implementation of the Global Strategy (2008), which urges Member States to strengthen national capacity and increase resources for the prevention and control of chronic diseases;
- Resolution CE142.R6, Population-based and individual approaches to the prevention and management of diabetes and obesity passed at the 142nd Session of the Executive Committee of PAHO 23-27 June 2008, Washington, D.C., USA.

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- Diabetes and several related chronic NCDs are major public health challenges for the region.
- If appropriate public health action is not initiated, disability and deaths from heart disease, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases will continue to grow and also occur prematurely.
- This trend poses a threat to the social and economic development of already resource-constrained countries in the region and threatens the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by their end date of 2015.

The participants welcomed the UN Resolution 64/265 dated 13th May 2010 to hold a high level UN General Assembly Special Session on NCDs in September 2011.

The participants recommend urgent action to address and mitigate this threat through the following measures:

- Initiate, prioritise, promote and fully resource the implementation of population-based and individual approaches to the prevention and management of diabetes and obesity the plan document for which was adapted through resolution CE142.R6 at the 142nd Session of the Executive Committee of PAHO 23-27 June 2008, Washington, D.C., USA.
- Strengthen and adjust health systems to address the prevention and care of chronic NCDs at the primary health care level.
- Develop and implement culturally appropriate programmes for education and awareness-raising to the common risk factors for NCDs; as well as programmes to reduce these risks through healthy diets, increased physical activity, smoking cessation and avoidance of harmful use of alcohol.
- Strengthen efforts to implement the Framework Convention on tobacco control.
- Promote “life cycle” and “life style” approach for prevention of diabetes and related NCDs to accrue multigenerational benefits of the interventions.

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- Strengthen surveillance systems to track and monitor the health and economic burdens of NCDs and their risk factors.
- Recognise that survival and optimum development of children with type 1 diabetes is dependent on daily injection(s) of insulin. Creating access to uninterrupted supply of insulin and related ancillaries' for injection and monitoring, is therefore not merely a matter of making a treatment available, but tantamount to the child's basic human right to live.
- Ensure the inclusion of key medications in the essential drug list for rational and optimum care of common NCDs at the primary health care level and ensure availability and distribution of these medicines at all times.
- Recognise that social determinants of health are relevant for NCDs and that poverty and ignorance is fuelling the current NCD epidemic. Programmes to address poverty eradication, improving education and the empowerment of women support NCD prevention and must be pursued with greater vigour.
- Recognise the critical linkages between NCDs and development and ensure that NCDs are included in the successor goals to the MDGs after 2015.
- Urge governments within the region and globally to participate fully in the UN Summit on NCDs in September 2011 and agree on an outcome document with specific commitments on integration and strengthening of health systems to include NCDs and to substantially increase the share of funding for NCDs both globally and nationally.

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