



126th WHO Executive Board Meeting
Provisional agenda item 4.9

**Joint Statement by the International Diabetes Federation,
International Union Against Cancer and World Heart Federation**

Mr Chairman, members of the Executive Board, Director-General, Regional Directors, ladies and gentlemen.

The International Diabetes Federation (IDF), International Union Against Cancer (UICC) and the World Heart Federation (WHF) commend WHO on progress made towards implementation of the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases.

These diseases, which include cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases are responsible for 60% of deaths worldwide. 80% of these deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries. The social and economic burden that these diseases place on vulnerable countries can no longer be ignored.

We ask Members of the Executive Board to take the following actions:

One: Support the resolution being put forward requesting the President of the United Nations General Assembly to hold a Special Session on non-communicable diseases.

Two: Support inclusion of indicators on non-communicable diseases to Millennium Development Goal 6 in the provisional agenda of the 2010 United Nations High-level Meeting to Review Progress on the Millennium Development Goals.

Three: Ensure that non-communicable diseases are included in discussions on successor goals to the Millennium Development Goals.

Four: Address the availability and affordability of essential medicines for non-communicable diseases in low- and middle- income countries.

Our three federations comprise 780 member organizations in over 170 countries. At global, regional and country levels, we are actively engaged in the implementation of the WHO Global Strategy and Action Plan.

In its report, the Secretariat highlights the main obstacles to implementation. We urge Members of the Executive Board to address these without further delay. Non-Communicable Diseases are a global health emergency threatening the lives of hundreds of millions of people. Our federations confirm our willingness to work with WHO and its Member States to turn around this epidemic. Now is the time to act.

Geneva, 21st January 2010