

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DIABETES AND ASSOCIATED DISEASES

Mauritius, 12th to 14th November, 2009

The Mauritius Call For Action

The Mauritius Call for Action identifies key strategies and commitments urgently required for planning and implementing national diabetes, cardiovascular and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs) prevention and control programs so as to reduce their burden in the African Region.

1. Considering the Non-communicable diseases strategy of the WHO African Region adopted in the year 2000
2. Considering the December, 2006, UN General Assembly Resolution on Diabetes
3. Recognizing the work done by the Government of Mauritius in NCD surveillance, prevention and control with the development and implementing the National Framework for Diabetes (NSFD)
4. Considering the Prevention & Control of Diabetes: A Strategy for WHO-African Region, and the WHO-AFRO Diabetes Resolution adopted in year 2007
5. Considering the Action Plan: the Global Strategy for NCD prevention & control adopted by World Health Assembly in May, 2008
6. Considering the Ouagadougou Declaration on Primary Health Care and Health Systems in Africa: Achieving Better Health for Africa in the New Millennium adopted in April, 2008;
7. Considering the Algiers Declaration adopted at the conclusion of the Ministerial Conference on Research for Health in the African Region in June, 2008
8. Considering the Libreville Declaration on Health & Environment that was adopted in September, 2008,
9. Recognizing that Africa is a region of predominantly developing nations where some countries are already having the epidemic and others are on the brink of an epidemic of diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other NCDs in which the toll, already devastating, will be immeasurable both socially and economically. Many people, including a significant number of children, are affected and many die before diagnosis let alone treatment. The cost of diabetes, its complications, cardiovascular diseases and other NCDs is huge and will continue to grow.

10. Recognizing the need to review existing approaches and develop a comprehensive and integrated strategic framework for sustainable action plans related to diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other NCDs.
11. Being cognizant of the need for collaboration between the member states and all key stake-holders with special reference to diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other NCDs prevention and control.
12. Recognizing the key role of multi-sectoral structural, fiscal, and other measures to modify the environment to enable or facilitate healthy behavior by individuals and communities particularly with regard to primary prevention of diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other NCDs.
13. Noting with concern low priority given to diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other non communicable diseases by international and national partners and stake-holders
14. Noting with concern inadequate government initiatives and resources.

We, the participants make the following recommendations:

1. to increase sensitization and advocacy in the fight against diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other NCDs, using reliable epidemiological data for policy-makers and the general public;
2. to prepare, revise and implement integrated prevention and control policies and plans for diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other NCDs within national health systems;
3. to improve human and financial capacities to better deal with diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other NCDs;
4. to encourage partnership and integration of services (where possible) of diabetes, cardiovascular and other NCDs programs with the existing communicable diseases programs so as to have equitable access to resources;
5. to promote partnership with relevant stakeholders including private-public partnership to support national diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other NCD programs;
6. to mobilize internal and external resources and allocate them regularly to assure coordination of the interventions of the different actors in different sectors (government, non-governmental and private);
7. to promote primary, secondary and tertiary prevention interventions in favor of diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other NCDs;
8. to promote healthy foods and healthy eating habits and set up regulatory framework for limiting access to unhealthy foods/ingredients; and, to set up a mechanism for prohibiting advertising on alcohol and tobacco;

9. to promote healthy lifestyle amongst the youths;
10. to utilize maternal and child health services for early interventions in the life course approach ;
11. to adopt multi-sectoral interventions that facilitate adoption of healthy lifestyles behaviors to prevent diabetes, cardiovascular and other NCDs;
12. to recognize that early diagnosis and management of diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other NCDs will significantly reduce the burden of their complications;
13. to integrate diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other NCDs into primary health care;
14. to ensure the availability of essential diagnosis tools and essential medicines for people with diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other NCDs;
15. to recognize that children with diabetes need daily injections of insulin for their survival. Ensuring regular and continuous supply of insulin is their basic human right.
16. to initiate and strengthen research on diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other NCDs;
17. to ensure that health indicators related to diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other NCDs and their risk factors are included within the national surveillance systems and be included in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
18. to ensure that current Global Fund includes diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other non-communicable diseases.

WHO and other international partners are requested to:

1. provide technical cooperation to countries to generate evidence based data and develop public policies that promote health;
2. develop, update and disseminate standards and guidelines for the diagnosis and management of diabetes, its complications, cardiovascular diseases and other non-communicable diseases;
3. encourage international partnership with relevant stake-holders to initiate national diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other non-communicable diseases programs;
4. promote and support research on diabetes, its complications, cardiovascular diseases and other non-communicable diseases;
5. monitor the progress of the implementation of global NCD action plan in the context of Regional Health Observatory.
6. promote and encourage multi-sectoral interventions to improve the environment so as to enable or facilitate the adoption of healthy behaviors.

The participants, WHO and the international partners must bring to the attention of the respective national governments this “Mauritius Call for Action” for its implementation so as to reduce the burden of diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and other non-communicable diseases in Africa