



23 November 2010

Your Excellency,

The European Chronic Disease Alliance (CDA) is writing to you to assure you of our full support for the UN High Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases, which will take place in September next year.

The European CDA is an alliance of ten not-for profit organisations, representing more than 100,000 health professionals, who have joined forces to put the case for immediate political action to reverse the alarming rise in chronic non-communicable diseases in Europe.

The European CDA wishes to request your consideration of the following elements with regard to the content of the Modalities Resolution for the High-Level Meeting that will be discussed shortly by the General Assembly:

- **The development and support of an Outcomes Statement** to be approved at the end of the High-Level Meeting that will form a clear programme of action for governments, the UN system, civil society and other stakeholders.
- **Agreement to a robust reporting mechanism** by member states on the Outcome Statement, so progress can be benchmarked and measured.
- **Formal inclusion of NGOs in the meeting** and consultations leading up to September 2011, including the establishment of a civil society taskforce under the office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **That the meeting be three days in length** in order to provide adequate time for discussion and debate between stakeholders.

The European CDA gives its full support to the High Level meeting. Chronic diseases affect more than a third of the European population. They account for 86% of deaths in the WHO European Region and include the four most prominent non-communicable diseases as outlined in the UN General Assembly Resolution of May 2010 (cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes). They also include hypertension, kidney disease and liver disease, which we believe should also feature prominently in any Outcome Statement produced by the High-Level Meeting.

This historic meeting in September 2011 has the potential of saving millions of lives that are now unnecessarily lost or impaired, not to mention the fact that chronic diseases are costly for healthcare systems and the economies across the globe.

We look forward to a positive reaction from you and to working with you towards a successful High-Level meeting in September.

Sincerely,

The European Chronic Disease Alliance

The members of the European Chronic Disease Alliance are:

- European Society of Cardiology: www.escardio.org
- European Heart Network: www.ehnheart.org
- European CanCer Organisation: www.ecco-org.eu
- European Society for Medical Oncology: www.esmo.org
- European Kidney Health Alliance: www.ekha.eu
- European Association for the study of the Liver: www.easl.eu
- International Diabetes Federation – Europe: www.idf.org/idf-european-region
- Federation of European Nurses in Diabetes: www.fend.org
- European Society of Hypertension: www.eshonline.org
- European Respiratory Society: www.ersnet.org