

PARLIAMENTARY CHAMPIONS FOR DIABETES FORUM

Parliament House, Spring Street Melbourne

Co-Chairs Sir Michael Hirst & Guy Barnett

MELBOURNE DECLARATION ON DIABETES

Introduction

We Members of Parliament from around the world with a special interest in supporting people with diabetes, their families and those at risk of diabetes are gathered here in Melbourne for the first global Parliamentary Champions For Diabetes forum just prior to the World Diabetes Congress, 2 – 6 December 2013. We are concerned by the increasingly serious health, economic and social threat faced by nations large and small, rich and poor and their people of whatever gender, age, colour, creed or social class by the diabetes pandemic.

The global challenge

There are an estimated 382 million people with diabetes in the world and that number is expected to rise to 592 million by 2035. 80% of people with diabetes live in low and middle-income countries. Diabetes will cause 5.1 million deaths in 2013 – one person every six seconds.

All types of diabetes are increasing – type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes and gestational diabetes. Younger and younger people are developing diabetes. An estimated 46% of type 2 diabetes is undiagnosed. 21 million live births will be affected by diabetes in 2013 and the latest evidence of epigenetic and “intergenerational” diabetes is alarming.

A further 316 million people currently have impaired glucose tolerance and are at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes and this is set to increase to 471 million by 2035.

Diabetes is a major threat to the health and productivity of all nations. Diabetes is a leading cause of blindness, amputations, kidney failure, heart attacks and stroke, and early death. Disadvantaged

people in every country carry the greatest burden and indigenous communities are especially vulnerable.

The economic burden of diabetes is immense and in 2013 diabetes will take up 11% of worldwide health expenditure – USD 548 billion dollars.

However, there are solutions for managing and preventing the diabetes pandemic.

Affordable access to healthcare providers and treatments including insulin, other oral and injectable medicines, self-management supports and technologies can help prevent most of the complications of diabetes.

The response of the international community

The 66th World Health Assembly (WHA) held in May 2013 has adopted 9 global targets and 25 indicators to help address the non-communicable diseases (NCDs) pandemic. Diabetes is the only one of the four major NCDs with its own global target – halt the rise in diabetes and obesity by 2025.

Diabetes is not just a health issue, it is a development issue and requires concerted policy action across many sectors.

The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) is the unique global voice for people with diabetes and those at risk. Its Member Associations in nearly every country of the world are likewise advocates for people with diabetes and those at risk. We acknowledge their support for us and our objectives.

IDF plays a pivotal role in efforts to reduce the global impact of diabetes, catalysing grass roots activism, influencing global health and development policy, and driving the global agenda on diabetes.

Twenty years after the World Diabetes Congress in Japan, the Western Pacific region is again in the global health spotlight with Melbourne hosting the World Diabetes Congress from 2 to 6 December 2013. In Australia, 8% of the population is living with diabetes and this is predicted to

increase to 14% in the next twenty years. Indigenous communities in Australia are three or four times more likely to have diabetes and the rate of complications is also much higher, like it is in many other indigenous communities throughout the world.

The contribution of Parliamentarians

There are some existing parliamentary diabetes support groups in various countries throughout the world, including Australia. However, there are currently no formal links between these groups. Nor is there a dedicated effort to both sustain and build these groups.

The first Parliamentary Champions For Diabetes forum being held in Melbourne from 30 November 2013 to 2 December 2013 has created the opportunity to establish a global network of parliamentarians for diabetes. Parliamentary champions for diabetes, the IDF and IDF Member Associations and others, can from their different perspectives, influence governments, key decision-makers and others to take action to support diabetes prevention, management plans and strategies.

Parliamentarians can also have significant influence in their community and elsewhere. This declaration offers a means to expedite these desirable objectives.

Every nation needs a national strategy and action plan to prevent and manage the diabetes pandemic and an effective global Parliamentarians for Diabetes global network can help facilitate this objective.

Accordingly, we believe that urgent action is required by individuals, families, communities, health care services, industry, governments and international organisations to ensure prevention, and then early diagnosis, management and access to adequate care, treatment and medicines for all those living with diabetes.

We commit ourselves to working across Parliaments with all who have a special interest in diabetes and hereby agree to establish a ‘Parliamentarians for Diabetes’ global network with the following objectives to:

1. Exchange policy views and practical initiatives of relevance and to hear from experts on

opportunities for action and progress in the prevention and management of diabetes. To always strive for 'best practice', and advocate for people with diabetes, their families and carers, and those at risk and to become a powerful force internationally to respond in a coordinated and focussed way to the diabetes pandemic and to promote the diabetes cause.

2. Provide parliamentarians with the opportunity to attend meetings organised by the IDF and their Member Associations, aiming to improve health outcomes for people with diabetes, stop discrimination towards people with diabetes and prevent development of type 2 diabetes. A special focus should be the different regions of the globe to ensure practical solutions are offered.
3. Establish a platform for the dialogue between IDF Member Associations and other stakeholders to exchange information and discuss special areas of common interest. These will include prevention, workforce, costs of diabetes, access to medicines, and effective strategies to combat and manage the pandemic. To report back to ministers, parliamentarians and other key decision-makers in our home countries and to seek commitments to deliver on the targets set at the 66th WHA in 2013. The global network will support the sharing of resources such as research, legislative initiatives, prevention campaigns and joint initiatives relevant to the various regions of the globe.
4. Encourage all governments to acknowledge that diabetes is a national health priority that requires a comprehensive action plan leading to action.
5. Respond to and participate in relevant debate and discussion on and related to the World Health Assembly, World Health Organisation, United Nations and other appropriate organisations or government bodies and specifically to ensure the inclusion of diabetes and NCDs in the post-2015 development framework noting this framework should be aligned with the goals and targets on diabetes agreed at the 66th WHA. Diabetes intersects all major dimensions of global development, including poverty reduction, gender inequality, education, environmental sustainability and infectious diseases.
6. Confer honour and express gratitude to those Members of Parliament supporting the

diabetes cause, wherever they may be and to use our best endeavours to recruit other Members of Parliament for this purpose.

7. Create opportunities for networking and building relationships between Members of Parliament, other key decision-makers, the IDF and its Member Associations and others. To hold meetings in various regions of the globe as agreed, and to meet again as a Global Forum at the next World Diabetes Congress in 2015.
8. Appoint a global co-ordinator with appropriate administrative and management support to assist the global network to achieve the above objectives.

Carried unanimously this 2nd day of December 2013.

End.

