

76th Session of the WHO Western Pacific Regional Committee

Provisional agenda item 12: Oral Health

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FDI World Dental Federation (FDI), representing over one million dentists worldwide, and the International Association for Dental, Oral and Craniofacial Research (IADR), representing over 10,000 researchers, thank the Chair for this opportunity.

We applaud Member States for their commitment to stronger action on oral health, globally including at the recently concluded Fourth United Nations High-Level Meeting on NCDs and Mental Health and regionally. We welcome the draft Implementation Plan with its three priorities and five acceleration projects, backed by targets and indicators.

The 2025 baseline estimates for targets included in the implementation plan provide valuable insights into progress achieved and highlight areas where urgent action is needed. We urge Member States to allocate the budgetary and human resources required to translate their commitments into measurable impact.

The Implementation Plan emphasizes addressing risk factors for oral diseases and NCDs. We strongly recommend revising the regional target for policy measures on free sugar intake upwards to 50% of countries from 37%, to better address the heavy burden of untreated dental caries.

We support expanding access to essential oral health services including integration into primary health care services and strengthening monitoring and evaluation. The baseline report of the WHO Global Oral Health Plan cautions that just 6% of Member States globally report having a monitoring framework for their national oral health policy. Additionally, only 3% of the regional population have access to essential oral health services.

We urge Member States to integrate oral health into Universal Health Coverage plans and strengthen oral health research to track progress toward national, regional, and global targets.

Also, research is urgently needed to evaluate scalable models of PHC integration, sustainable financing mechanisms, and culturally adapted community engagement strategies.

FDI and IADR stand ready to support Member States and partners in implementing these measures.

Thank you.

298 words (max 300 words).