

WORLD CANCER DECLARATION 2013

The World Cancer Declaration calls upon government leaders and health policy-makers to significantly reduce the global cancer burden, promote greater equity, and integrate cancer control into the world health and development agenda.

OVERARCHING GOAL:

There will be major reductions in premature deaths from cancer, and improvements in quality of life and cancer survival rates.

BY 2025:



Target 01 - Health systems will be strengthened to ensure sustained delivery of effective and comprehensive, patient-centred cancer control programmes across the life-course



Target 06 - Population-based screening and early detection programmes will be universally implemented, and levels of public and professional awareness about important cancer warning signs and symptoms will have improved



Target 02 - Population-based cancer registries and surveillance systems will be established in all countries to measure the global cancer burden and the impact of national cancer control programmes



Target 07 - Access to accurate cancer diagnosis, quality multimodal treatment, rehabilitation, supportive and palliative care services, including the availability of affordable essential medicines and technologies, will have improved



Target 03 - Global tobacco consumption, overweight and obesity, unhealthy diet, alcohol intake, and levels of physical inactivity, as well as exposure to other known cancer risk factors will have fallen significantly



Target 08 - Effective pain control and distress management services will be universally available



Target 04 - The cancer causing infections HPV and HBV will be covered by universal vaccination programmes



Target 09 - Innovative education and training opportunities for healthcare professionals in all disciplines of cancer control will have improved significantly, particularly in low- and middle-income countries



Target 05 - Stigma associated with cancer will be reduced, and damaging myths and misconceptions about the disease will be dispelled

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS FOR ALL COUNTRIES

Building on the Global NCD Action Plan (2013-2020) agreed by Member States at the World Health Assembly in May 2013, the global cancer community has identified a set of immediate actions for all stakeholders, in particular governments, to advance progress towards the 9 World Cancer Declaration targets



RAISE THE PRIORITY ACCORDED TO CANCER PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL AGENDAS AND INTERNATIONALLY AGREED DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- Communicate effectively to governments and national, regional and global policy makers that cancer control policies, and resources need to be aligned with the health, social and economic burden caused by cancer, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.
- Place cancer and other NCDs as priority health issues in the post-2015 development agenda by generating and disseminating evidence demonstrating that cancer is both a cause and an outcome of poverty, and constitutes a major threat to economic and social development.
- Reinforce access to cancer prevention, early detection and screening, diagnosis, treatment and care as a human right under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- Forge sustainable multisectoral partnerships between governmental agencies, intergovernmental organisations, civil society and the private sector (where appropriate) to increase national investment in the prevention and control of cancer.

STRENGTHEN NATIONAL CAPACITY TO ACCELERATE RESPONSES TO CANCER

- Take a whole-of-government and multisectoral approach to ensure that all major stakeholder groups are involved in the development, updating, resourcing and implementation of national cancer control plans.
- Encourage integration of cancer control plans in emerging national NCD plans.
- Increase efforts to empower and involve cancer patients in both cancer control planning and patient-led self-care at a local and national level.

REDUCE MODIFIABLE RISK FACTORS FOR CANCER

- Increase efforts to reduce exposure to known cancer and common NCD risk factors, particularly tobacco use, the leading risk factor for cancer. Emphasis should be given to the implementation of evidence-based strategies, public education, legislative, regulatory, and fiscal measures:
 - Tobacco consumption: Accelerate the full implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and related MPOWER policies and interventions
 - Unhealthy diet: Engage all stakeholders to increase the proportion of people eating a healthy and balanced diet
 - Harmful use of alcohol: Encourage implementation of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Strategy to Reduce the Harmful Use of Alcohol
 - Physical inactivity: Develop and implement sustainable policies and actions that promote physical activity
- Develop and implement culturally sensitive policies that will create health-promoting environments to reduce population-level risk factors, and enable and encourage people to make informed choices.
- Develop and implement measures to reduce people's exposure to cancer-causing infections, as well as environmental (e.g. UV radiation) and occupational carcinogens (e.g. asbestos).





STRENGTHEN AND ORIENT HEALTH SYSTEMS TO ADDRESS THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF CANCER

Early Detection and Screening

- Undertake research and introduce training so that behavioural and social factors contributing to the delay in seeking early detection can be understood and reduced.
- Engage high-risk populations at the individual, community, and societal levels so that high-risk behaviours can be reduced through self-determination, underpinned by systems of patient-centred care.
- Ensure the availability of, and access to, affordable early detection programmes for which there is evidence of efficacy in the population in question, including screening for breast, cervical, colorectal, skin and oral cancers.
- Undertake pilot projects that are designed to evaluate the feasibility and efficacy in populations in which the appropriateness of the screening technology has not yet been proven.

Treatment and Care

- Raise awareness about the need for multidisciplinary treatment, including surgery, radiotherapy and systemic therapy.
- Raise awareness about the need for a holistic approach to cancer care that encompasses mental health, rehabilitative, supportive and palliative care.
- Promote the development and use of cancer management guidelines that are relevant to local needs and resources, and encompass the provision of quality treatment and care.
- Work transparently and ethically with industry to ensure access to safe, affordable, and effective cancer medicines, vaccines, radiotherapy and other technologies, particularly those that support diagnosis.
- Take steps to remove the many barriers to optimal pain control.
 - Work with all stakeholders including governments, civil society and relevant private sector players to address the over-regulation of pain medicines.
 - Cooperate with international agencies, including the World Health Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Narcotics Control Board to ensure that global implementation of the UN's international drug control conventions strikes an appropriate balance between ensuring availability of pain medicines for cancer patients in pain and preventing their misuse.

Health workforce and Education

- Increase the number of health professionals with formalised expertise in all disciplines of cancer control and all levels of health service by providing innovative specialist training opportunities and fellowships to enable professionals to study in specialist settings.
- Raise awareness about the impact of health worker emigration on the ability of countries to provide adequate levels of cancer care.
- Work collectively to address global and national health workforce shortages and the resultant deepening of inequity.



PROMOTE AND SUPPORT NATIONAL CAPACITY FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF CANCER

- Increase investment in basic, clinical and implementation research across fields and disciplines including psycho-oncology, behavioural medicine and survivorship, and make specific efforts to accelerate the translation of research findings into clinical practice.
- Build the evidence base for cost-effective, scalable and sustainable population-based cancer interventions, in particular solutions that are adaptable to low resource settings.
- Encourage cancer research organisations in different countries and across divergent fields of professional expertise to share data and define complementary research objectives to optimise the use of the limited funds available for cancer research and reduce the duplication of efforts.

MONITOR THE TRENDS AND DETERMINANTS OF CANCER AND EVALUATE PROGRESS IN ITS PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- Improve surveillance of cancer morbidity, mortality, and prevalence by establishing population-based cancer registries, which are crucial for the development and monitoring of successful national cancer control plans, and for identifying priorities in public health.
- Use cancer registry data to evaluate differences in cancer incidence, survival and access to treatment among disadvantaged social groups and thus contribute to programmes aimed at reducing inequalities in health outcomes.



A MEMBERSHIP ORGANISATION
FIGHTING CANCER TOGETHER

The Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), its membership and partners are committed to delivering the targets of the World Cancer Declaration. Innovative and strategic partnerships with organisations committed to the fight against cancer are vital for building momentum towards the 2025 targets. Together we aim to save millions of lives by focusing on what needs to be done, taking the lead in:

- Convening the global cancer control community
- Advocacy and putting cancer on the global health and development agenda
- Coordinating high-impact global actions