

# Launch of the global oral health status report

## Intervention by Prof. Ihsane Ben Yahya

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On behalf of the FDI World Dental Federation, which represents more than one million dentists, I congratulate WHO on the launch of its Global Oral Health Status Report. This new report is a key tool that will assist in taking meaningful action to achieve optimal oral health for all.

It outlines approaches that support the integration of oral health into noncommunicable disease and universal health coverage programmes, and is specifically aligned with the goals of FDI's Vision 2030. The report also articulates the major challenges that oral health professionals are facing and opens windows of opportunity for dentists and dental teams to demonstrate their commitment, capability and competence in addressing these challenges. It also mobilizes many stakeholders to reassess the most critical priorities in oral disease prevention and management.

All these are particularly important as our organization defines the priority areas for next year's United Nations High Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage.

The country and regional profiles included in this report demonstrate that there are national and regional disparities in the oral health challenges faced. Hence, there cannot be a 'one-size-fits-all' approach. However, by understanding the country-specific problems and mapping the priorities, based on what the data reveals, will help FDI and its members to implement the most impactful strategies.



But we know we cannot do it alone, thus we support WHO, and urge governments to use the current momentum of the global oral health policy agenda to ensure equitable and targeted access to quality oral health care for all.

The launch of this report is a significant win, but to achieve our shared commitment to deliver optimal oral health for all by 2030, we have a long road ahead of us. We strongly support government-led partnerships that leverage the expertise of stakeholders across different sectors to ensure synergistic, relevant and unified action.

Together with its member associations around the world, FDI is committed to developing national plans and strengthening systems to improve oral health care.

After all, **every person** has the right to good oral health and to a full, happy and healthy life. And it is only **together** that we can achieve this.

Finally, in this spirit of **solidarity**, let me remind you that World Antimicrobial Awareness Week started today - FDI is doing a lot of work in this area, and I encourage you all to join us.

Thank you.