

154th Session of WHO's Executive Board (EB154)

Provisional agenda item 6. Universal Health Coverage

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FDI World Dental Federation (FDI), representing over one million dentists, and the International Association for Dental Research, representing over 10,000 researchers worldwide thank the Chair for this opportunity. The Director General's report cautions that progress towards UHC is stagnated and cannot be achieved without investment in primary health care.

Oral diseases, the most prevalent conditions worldwide affect 3.5 billion people, and health systems without oral health fail on performance dimensions of equity, quality, responsiveness, efficiency, and resilience.

We urge Member States to:

- reorient health systems towards a primary care approach that guarantees access to care across the life course,
- prioritize the integration of oral health within the health and care workforce training curricula,
- ensure access to a basic package of essential oral health services at the primary care level,
- include oral health in existing and emerging national health surveillance by fully implementing the Global Oral Health Action Plan and a 3-year frequency of its monitoring framework report.

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