

The Seventy-Fifth Session of the Regional Committee for Africa

Pillar 1: One billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage; Agenda Item 7 - Regional framework for accelerating implementation of the global oral health action plan: addressing oral diseases as part of noncommunicable diseases toward universal health coverage by 2030

The International Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research and the FDI World Dental Federation, representing over 10,000 researchers and 1 million dentists worldwide, commend Member States for prioritizing the Regional Framework.

Oral diseases are among the most prevalent NCDs and cause pain, disability, and economic loss. In parts of Africa, barriers to care are greatest, with fewer than 10% of people in low-income countries accessing essential oral health services.

We urge retaining and strengthening the recognition of oral diseases in the Political Declaration on NCDs, with measurable targets from the GOHAP:

- At least 50% of the population entitled to essential oral health services;
- 50% of countries implementing free sugars reduction policies; and
- 50% of countries have a national oral health research agenda

To achieve this, we call for action on commercial determinants of health, full integration of oral health into UHC benefit packages and primary care, and investment in Africa's workforce, surveillance, and research capacity.

Thank you.

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