The FDI World Dental Federation is concerned about the lack of progress in tackling the worldwide burden of tooth decay.

This burden affects children, adults and the elderly, disrupts life and causes considerable pain, suffering and economic hardship. Most of the disease still remains untreated, particularly in disadvantaged populations. Prevention by using fluoride is the most realistic way of reducing this heavy burden of disease worldwide.

Over 60 years of extensive research has consistently demonstrated the efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and safety of appropriate fluoride for the prevention of tooth decay. The FDI recognises that universal access to fluoride for dental health is part of the basic human right to health.

The FDI supports the use of fluoride for the prevention of dental decay and strongly urge all stakeholders, including governments, health professional associations, industry and civil society in all countries to take the following actions:

- Develop effective fluoride policies to ensure universal access to appropriate fluoride for dental health;
- Include information on the benefits of fluoride in health communications, health promotion strategies and programmes;
- Encourage governments to reduce or remove taxation and tariffs on fluoride products for dental health.