



Letter from the President

Advancing global oral health through advocacy and collaboration

In recent weeks, I had the honour of representing FDI and the global dental community at key international events, including the 4th United Nations High-Level Meeting on Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health during the 80th UN General Assembly in New York and the Prague Dental Days. These engagements strongly reaffirmed FDI's leadership in global health and our commitment to advancing oral health through collaboration and advocacy.



Securing oral health's place in global policy at the 4th UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs and mental health

Last month, FDI was on the ground in New York for the **United Nations (UN) Fourth High-Level Meeting (HLM4) on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs)** and Mental Health. This was a defining moment for global health, and I am proud to say that FDI played an active and influential role in shaping its outcomes.

At the outset of negotiations, oral health was absent from the draft Political Declaration. But FDI refused to accept that omission. Together with our members, partners, and champion governments, we mobilized a strong advocacy effort to ensure oral health received the recognition it deserves. Thanks to this collective action, oral diseases are now explicitly included in both the preambular and operative

sections of the [final Political Declaration](#), a historic first for our profession.



This inclusion is not just symbolic. It is a concrete commitment that will help integrate and fund oral health within national NCD strategies worldwide. The Declaration recognizes that oral diseases and NCDs share common risk factors, including tobacco, alcohol, unhealthy diets, and the social and environmental determinants of health. Prevention remains the most sustainable path to healthier lives.

The document sets ambitious targets for 2030, including reducing tobacco use, improving hypertension control, and expanding access to mental health care. With oral health now standing alongside these goals, we have strengthened our position in the global movement for better health for all.

While we celebrate this achievement, we must remain vigilant. Some important prevention measures were weakened during negotiations. This is a reminder that progress in public health is never guaranteed and that our advocacy must continue.

During the week the FDI delegation attended actively in several side events.

The first side event with the Global Self-Care Foundation - It was taken from a roundtable on role of self-care in the prevention and control of NCDs. At this event, we highlighted our World Oral Health Day campaign which reaches billions of people and how oral health education and oral self-care remain key elements of our campaign messages. We also called for distinguishing between safe self-care and resorting to unsafe practices, such as Do-it-Yourself dentistry, which can cause serious complications.

FDI's presence in New York was strong and visible throughout the week. We co-hosted a major side event, "Time to Act on Sugars: Advancing Health Equity and Tackling NCDs with a Focus on Oral Diseases," together with the Governments of Malaysia, Ireland, France, Egypt, the Philippines, and Thailand, highlighting the shared risk factors that unite oral diseases with other NCDs.



We also participated in the **Fourth Multistakeholder Gathering on NCDs**, joining a panel discussion on “Building Narratives that Drive Multisectoral Action on NCDs and Mental Health Across Stakeholders.” This was an opportunity to reaffirm that oral health is inseparable from overall health and essential to the global development agenda.

In addition, FDI also contributed to a **side events on antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**, ensuring that oral health remained visible and relevant across a broad range of health discussions. We worked closely with the NCD Alliance, our partners, and key stakeholders to coordinate messaging, strengthen alliances, and amplify the voice of the dental profession.

I was also honoured to represent FDI during the **Bulgarian Independence Day celebration** in New York, where I was formally congratulated on my appointment by the Minister of Health of Bulgaria Assoc. Prof. Silvi Kirilov and met with Prime Minister Rossen Jeliakov. This was a moment of great national pride and a reflection of Bulgaria’s contribution to the global oral health movement.

Finally, at a **Colgate-Palmolive roundtable hosted by Goals House**, I joined global health experts and policymakers to explore how oral health can serve as a key entry point for advancing prevention and behaviour change within the broader NCD agenda. The discussion reinforced the untapped potential of primary care and the health workforce in promoting better oral health worldwide.

As we look ahead, the message from New York is clear: oral health is health. Our advocacy is working, our influence is growing, and our mission continues to ensure every country recognizes and acts on the essential role of oral health in achieving better health for all.



Prague Dental Days: A memorable congress in the Czech Republic

It was a great pleasure to take part in the recent congress hosted by the **Czech Dental Chamber**. My sincere thanks go to the Chamber for their outstanding organization and to **Dr Roman Smucler** for his warm welcome and gracious hospitality.

During the **opening ceremony**, I had the honour of addressing more than 1,500 participants and sharing updates on the outcomes of the UN HLM4, as well as FDI’s active engagement throughout this global process.

I also had the opportunity to participate in the **Central European Roundtable of Leaders of Dentistry**, where discussions focused on the theme “From Data to Decisions: The European Health Data Space and the AI Act for European Dentistry.”

The exchange of ideas was dynamic and insightful. These conversations provided an excellent opportunity to showcase FDI's leadership and ongoing initiatives that are delivering tangible progress for oral health and our profession worldwide. I was personally delighted to establish new friendships with many distinguished colleagues, whose commitment and vision for the future of dentistry are truly inspiring.

Looking ahead, I am confident that the upcoming **FDI World Dental Congress 2026 in Prague** will be an exceptional event. It will undoubtedly shape the future of dentistry from scientific, practical, and policy perspectives, and I very much look forward to seeing our global community gather in Prague.



Discussing FDI's activities at our Members' webinar

On 28 October, FDI Executive Director Enzo Bondioni and I hosted a **Members' Briefing** to provide timely updates on FDI's recent and upcoming activities. During the session, we shared key developments from our engagement at the UN HLM4 and outlined FDI's preparations for the forthcoming Minamata Convention on Mercury, sixth Conference of the Parties (COP6).

In particular, we discussed the ongoing global debate on the phase-down versus phase-out of dental amalgam. FDI continues to advocate for a pragmatic and scientifically grounded approach that supports oral health equity worldwide. We emphasize the importance of ensuring that any transition away from amalgam does not compromise access to safe, effective, and affordable restorative materials, especially in low- and middle-income countries where alternatives may still be limited. FDI will participate in COP6 in Geneva from 3 to 7 November, where we will continue to advocate for the dental profession and keep our members informed of the latest developments.

These Members' Briefings are a valuable opportunity for us to connect directly with our Member Associations, to share insights and exchange perspectives, and to ensure an open and ongoing dialogue. This engagement helps us better understand the priorities and challenges faced by our Members and strengthens our collective voice in advancing global oral health.

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