



Letter from the President

Working together for better oral health

From celebrating 100 years of progress in Colombia to preparing for the 2026 FDI General Assembly in Prague, this month reflects the strength of our global oral health community.



A century of commitment to improving oral health in Colombia

From 28–31 July, I had the pleasure of attending the Odontotech Fair 2026 in Bogotá, Colombia, at the invitation of the President of the Colombian Dental Federation, Dr Maria Fernanda Atuesta, who is also a dear friend.

This year's event was particularly meaningful as the Colombian Dental Federation celebrated its centennial anniversary; a remarkable milestone that reflects 100 years of

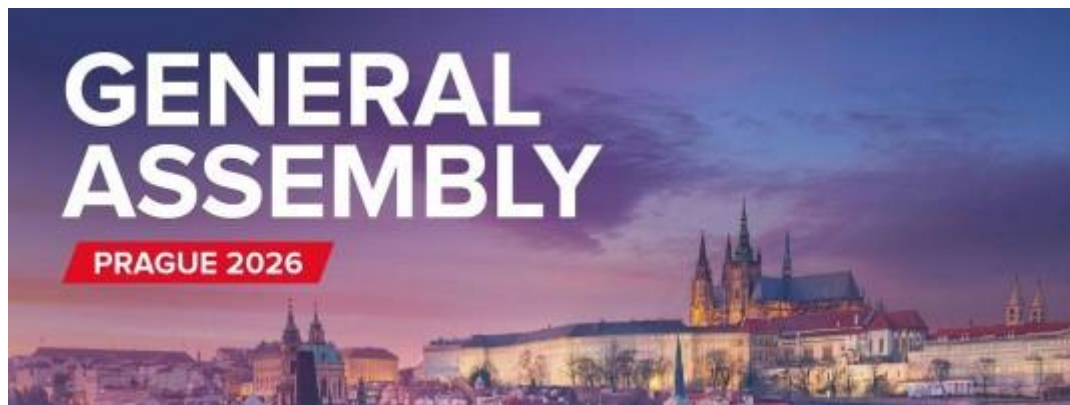
dedication to advancing the dental profession and improving oral health across Colombia. I was honoured to participate in the Centum Ceremony and share a few words to mark the occasion.

Anniversaries such as these offer an opportunity to celebrate past achievements while looking ahead with optimism. The Colombian Dental Federation has played a significant role in strengthening oral healthcare over the past century, and I have no doubt it will continue to make an important contribution in the years to come, both nationally and across the region.

On behalf of FDI, I extend my warmest congratulations to Dr Atuesta and the entire Colombian Dental Federation on this exceptional achievement. Thank you for your longstanding commitment to the profession and for the warm hospitality shown throughout my visit.

Beyond the centennial celebrations, Odontotech 2026 once again demonstrated the strength and dynamism of the oral health community in Colombia and Latin America. Bringing together dental professionals, industry partners, academics and students, the event provided an excellent platform for exchanging knowledge, showcasing innovation and strengthening professional connections.

During our visit, we also had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the FDI Latin American Regional Organization (LARO). The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to share updates on FDI's ongoing activities and initiatives, while discussing regional priorities and opportunities for continued collaboration to advance oral health across Latin America.



Looking ahead to the FDI General Assembly 2026

Preparations are well underway for the 2026 FDI General Assembly in Prague, and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

The General Assembly binder was distributed via email on 6 July. I encourage all member associations to review the documents carefully in advance of the meeting, as several important decisions will be considered during this year's General Assembly.

If you have not received the link to the General Assembly binder, please contact the FDI Head Office, who will be happy to assist.

Upcoming working visits:

**New Zealand Dental Association Conference 2026
Auckland, New Zealand, 27–29 August**

Representing FDI, the President will participate in the 2026 NZDA Conference, including delivering remarks at the Opening Ceremony. His next travel will take place in September to Prague, Czech Republic, for the FDI World Dental Congress.