



**Alzheimer's Disease
International**

The global voice on dementia

World Health Organization (WHO) 150th Executive Board

The following statements were delivered by ADI under the respective agenda items:

Item 7d: Draft recommendations on how to strengthen the design and implementation of policies, including those for resilient health systems and health services and infrastructure, to treat people living with noncommunicable diseases and to prevent and control their risk factors in humanitarian emergencies

Honourable Chair and distinguished delegates,

Alzheimer's Disease International welcomes the principles set out in Draft recommendations on how to strengthen the design and implementation of policies to treat people living with noncommunicable diseases, and to prevent and control risk factors in humanitarian emergencies. However, we urge Member States to adopt and include specific wording and recommendations for those living with dementia. Evidence from the COVID-19 pandemic has shown that those living with dementia have been disproportionately impacted, constituting up to 41% of all COVID-19 deaths in some countries. In other humanitarian emergencies, case studies have shown those in the later stages of the condition often resist leaving dangerous environments or due to mobility issues, are often unable to, meaning many are left behind. People living with dementia are not typically or explicitly included in publicly available safeguarding and protection policies and emergency response mechanisms, despite being some of the most vulnerable. We therefore urge Member States to consider those living with dementia when implementing these recommendations.

Item 7g: Statement to be considered on the Draft intersectoral global action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders in support of universal health coverage

Honourable Chair and distinguished delegates,

Alzheimer's Disease International and its federation of 105 Alzheimer and dementia associations support the intersectoral Global action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders. Neurological disorders such as dementia place a high burden on those living with the condition, as well as their carers and are greatly under-researched. Mortality figures are striking with dementia constituting the 7th leading cause of death annually. We urge and encourage Member States to adopt this Global action plan, whilst not forgetting their commitment to the robust Global action plan on the public health response to dementia (2017-2025), including the creation of national dementia plans; the best tool available to governments to tackle one of the key health and social care crises of this century. We therefore welcome the proposal by the United Kingdom to deliver a standalone dementia plan later in the year.



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Item 15.1: Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies

Honourable chair and distinguished delegates,

Those living with dementia have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, constituting up to 41% of all COVID-19 deaths in some countries. The unpreparedness of healthcare systems globally meant that the human rights of those living with dementia were at best forgotten and at worst, disregarded. It is for this reason Alzheimer's Disease International and its federation of 105 associations support the work of the WHO in preparing for and responding to future health emergencies.

Provisions must be put in place to ensure that those living with dementia are still able to access diagnostic and support services, but most importantly, Member States must learn from the mistakes made during the current pandemic so that lives of our grandparents, parents or partners are not lost before their time.