



## International Obesity TaskForce

### Response to the draft WHO report on Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Disease

#### **The International Obesity Task Force (IOTF)**

At a recent meeting in Prague, members of the International Obesity Task Force (IOTF) and over 600 leading medical professionals convened to address the growing concern of obesity in the world today. This proclamation was a result of our discussions.

#### **'Prague Proclamation' on Obesity**

As physicians at the frontline in the battle against obesity, we fully support the World Health Organisation's (WHO) statement that obesity has become a global epidemic affecting more than 250 million people worldwide and resulting in diabetes, renal and cardiovascular diseases and premature death.

As such, we believe that obesity is a serious disease that requires heightened attention and action. We endorse access to a full range of treatment options and agree that a proper weight-management programme should include a reduced-kcalorie diet of lower energy density, exercise and behaviour modification.

We amplify the voice of the WHO in calling on governments, institutions and industry to continue to strengthen their commitment to research and development into obesity to reduce the significant morbidity and mortality associated with this illness.

Recognising that one of the biggest challenges facing patients is not obesity itself but misperceptions about the disease, we support appropriate public and medical education and awareness initiatives designed to elevate the status of obesity as a priority public health concern.

Signed

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