1. Dementia currently affects more than 47 million people worldwide, with more than 75 million people expected to be living with dementia by 2030. This number is expected to triple by 2050. It is one of the major health challenges for our generation. Often hidden, misunderstood and underreported, dementia affects individuals, families and communities and is a growing cause of disability.

2. Contrary to popular belief, dementia is not a natural or inevitable consequence of ageing. It is a condition that impairs the cognitive brain functions of memory, language, perception and thought and interferes significantly with the person’s ability to maintain the activities of daily living. The most common types of dementia are Alzheimer’s disease and vascular dementia. Evidence suggests that the risk of certain types of dementia may be lowered by addressing cardiovascular risk factors, as applicable.

3. The personal, social and economic consequences of dementia are enormous. Dementia leads to increased long-term care costs for governments, communities, families and individuals, and to losses in productivity for economies. The global cost of dementia care in 2010 was estimated to be US$ 604 billion – 1.0% of global gross domestic product. By 2030, the cost of caring for people with dementia worldwide has been estimated at US$ 1.2 trillion or more, which could undermine social and economic development throughout the world.

4. Nearly 60% of people with dementia live in low- and middle-income countries, and this proportion is expected to increase rapidly during the next decade. This may contribute to increasing inequalities between countries and populations.

5. A sustained global effort is thus required to promote action on dementia and address the challenges posed by dementia and its impacts. No single country, sector or organization can tackle these challenges alone.

6. The following overarching principles and approaches are integral to global efforts:
   - empowering and engaging the full and active participation of people living with dementia and their caregivers and families, as well as overcoming stigma and discrimination;
   - fostering collaboration between all stakeholders to improve prevention and care and to stimulate research;
   - incorporating the aspects of dementia prevention, care and rehabilitation in policies related to ageing, disability and noncommunicable diseases, including mental health;
   - building on and utilizing existing expertise, collaborative arrangements and mechanisms to maximize impact;
   - balancing prevention, risk reduction, care and cure so that, while efforts are still directed towards finding effective treatments, best practices and risk-reduction interventions, continuous improvements are made in care for people living with dementia and support for their caregivers;
   - advocating for an evidence-based approach and shared learning, allowing advances in open research and data-sharing to be made available to facilitate faster learning and action;
   - emphasizing that policies, plans, programmes, interventions and actions must be sensitive to the needs, expectations and human rights of people living with dementia and their caregivers;
   - embracing the importance of universal health coverage and an equity-based approach in all aspects of dementia activities, including facilitation of equitable access to health and social care for people living with dementia and their caregivers.
CALL FOR ACTION

WE, THE PARTICIPANTS IN THIS CONFERENCE, CALL FOR THE FOLLOWING ACTION TO BENEFIT PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA, THEIR CAREGIVERS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES:

- raising the priority accorded to global efforts to tackle dementia on the agendas of relevant high-level forums and meetings of national and international leaders;
- strengthening capacity, leadership, governance, multisectoral action and partnerships to accelerate responses to address dementia;
- promoting a better understanding of dementia, raising public awareness and engagement, including respect for the human rights of people living with dementia, reducing stigma and discrimination and fostering greater participation, social inclusion and integration;
- advancing prevention, risk reduction, diagnosis and treatment of dementia in ways consistent with current and emerging evidence;
- facilitating technological and social innovations to meet the needs of people living with dementia and their caregivers;
- increasing collective efforts in dementia research and fostering collaboration;
- facilitating the coordinated delivery of health and social care for people living with dementia, including capacity-building for the workforce, support for mutual care-taking across generations at an individual, family and society level, and strengthening of support and services for caregivers and families;
- supporting a gender-sensitive approach in the elaboration of plans, policies and interventions aimed at improving the lives of people living with dementia;
- promoting further work to identify and address barriers to dementia care, particularly in low-resource settings;
- strengthening international efforts to support plans and policies at all levels for people living with dementia, particularly in low- and middle-income countries;
- supporting the efforts of the World Health Organization, within its mandate and workplans, to fulfill its leadership role in full collaboration with national and international partners to promote and monitor global efforts to address dementia.