



**Alzheimer's Disease
International**

The global voice on dementia

Statement to the 142nd Session of the Executive Board
Item 3.1. Draft thirteenth general programme of work 2019-2023

Paola Barbarino, CEO
Alzheimer's Disease International

Honourable chair and distinguished delegates,

Alzheimer's Disease International is the worldwide body representing 90 national dementia associations, in partnership with Dementia Alliance International. ADI was founded in 1984 and has been in official relations with WHO since 1996. ADI's vision is prevention, care and inclusion today and cure tomorrow.

Every three seconds someone in the world develops dementia. There are currently 50 million people living with dementia and this figure is expected to increase to 131 million by 2050. Dementia is already a \$1 trillion-dollar disease. It is the 7th leading cause of death worldwide and is the leading cause of disability and dependence among the elderly.

We would like to thank the WHO for the great effort and dedication that led to the adoption of the Global plan on dementia and development of the Global Dementia Observatory in 2017.

Our challenge is still huge. The stigma surrounding dementia is immense and to change that is an incredibly difficult task.

We strongly feel that mentioning dementia in the programme of work is key to the success of global advocacy for change. Civil society needs to be empowered to persuade the world that dementia cannot be hidden.

We support the recognition of mental health in article 70 on Non-Communicable Diseases and we are also encouraged to see that a strategy for ageing has been included in article 37.

For ADI and its members this is not enough. I call on the Board to support the express addition of dementia and reference to the Global action plan to the general programme of work under NCD or ageing.

This inclusion will be vital to encourage diagnosis, access to treatment, development of systems of long term care, improving palliative care, stimulate all form of research, align health systems and encourage community based approaches to care.

I thank you for your time.