



**Alzheimer's Disease  
International**

*The global voice on dementia*

**Statement to the 70<sup>th</sup>  
Session of the World Health Assembly**

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My name is Paola Barbarino and I am the CEO of Alzheimer's Disease International. ADI is the global umbrella organisation of Alzheimer associations, it represents 90 organisations and has been in official relations with the WHO since 1996.

It is a privilege to witness the approval of the Global Action Plan on dementia, the product of 10 years' work. It marks the beginning of a new era for people with dementia and their families. I would like to thank the WHO and all the nations who have helped us get this far. We particularly welcome the recognition in the plan of the human rights of people with dementia and the potential of dementia friendly communities to give those rights practical effect.

For ADI this is not the end of a process. It is just the beginning.

The future national plans must be tailored to the health, economic and social needs of each country.

In the view of ADI basic improvements in the life of people with dementia and their family carers depend on 3 things:

- Greater awareness
- Timely diagnosis and post-diagnostic support
- Increased access to community-based services

Underpinning this effort we need a global endeavour to reduce the risk of getting dementia in the first place.

The current situation is unsustainable. Dementia is becoming the most expensive disease of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and we must stop this.

Hope for the future depends on research. ADI proposes that nationally 1% of the societal cost of dementia should be devoted to funding research in: basic science, care improvements, prevention and risk reduction, drug development and public health.

As I said, this is the start of a new era. One in which organisations like ours are being given by you an important instrument to begin a new phase in our fight.

Thank you.