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May 13, 2010

Dear Colleagues

This morning the UN General Assembly has voted in favour of holding a UN Summit on NCDs in September 2011. The resolution, originally led by the Caribbean, was co sponsored by over 100 states including the USA, Russia and China.

As you know, this idea originated in IDF and we have driven it through to global level with our members and partners, building on the achievement of the UNR. Last year we formed an NCD alliance with our sister federations, World Heart Federation (WHF), International Union against Cancer (UICC) and The International Union against TB and Lung Disease (The Union) which has campaigned with us from global to local levels in over 170 countries.

This Summit, and the support it has received from so many UN member states, signals a new chapter in our history. Diabetes and the other non communicable diseases are now firmly where we have long advocated they should be, high profile on the global agenda as an issue meriting the urgent attention of Heads of Government.

Time is short to prepare for such a major Summit and ensure that we get definite outcomes that will make a difference for people with diabetes and help prevent further spread of the disease. I am confident we can mobilise the resources of our federation to achieve this. I know I can count on the support of you all.

I wish to pay particular tribute to my predecessor, IDF Past President Martin Silink. This Summit was his vision and he set in train the process that we have continued to achieve this Summit during my Presidency. I also wish to thank the many individuals and associations in the IDF network that contributed to this success. And finally, I wish to thank IDF Chief Executive Officer, Ann Keeling, and her staff for so skilfully steering the process for IDF.

This is not the end, it is the beginning.

With kind regards,

Professor Jean Claude Mbanya
President
IDF