IDF’S NETWORKS’ VIEWS ON THE

2018 POLITICAL DECLARATION ON NCDs
& IDF’S PRELIMINARY STATEMENT
The International Diabetes Federation commends the intention of Member States to scale up and accelerate the implementation of their previously agreed commitments and their recognition that progress and investment have been insufficient to meet target 3.4 by 2030.

We welcome the recognition that every person has the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. We also welcome the recognition of the need to strengthen health systems, services and infrastructure to treat people and prevent and control their risk factors in humanitarian emergencies. IDF would like to see the integration of diabetes care as a core component of the humanitarian response when disaster strikes.

The actions and tools required to stem the diabetes epidemic are well known, and yet, to date, most countries are a long way off meeting their targets.

IDF is gravely concerned by the omission in the Political Declaration of the necessary monitoring mechanisms to track progress and make governments accountable. We are concerned that holding the next HLM in 2025 is too late to identify and take any required remedial action.

Unless governments translate their commitments into concrete actions now, the Political Declaration will have served no useful purpose, and the number of people living with, and dying from, diabetes, will continue to rise.

A pre-requisite to translating commitments into action is adequate funding of prevention and education programmes, essential medicines and care. We will need to see enhanced multi-sectoral collaboration to regulate prices, improve the supply chain and strengthen health systems. We will need new financing sources and funding mechanisms to be developed.

IDF regrets Member States’ lack of ambition in this respect and urges them to commit to setting up game-changing financing mechanisms, and to hold the private sector truly accountable in helping prevent diabetes by producing food products consistent with healthy diets and by preventing and managing diabetes through an improvement in the provision of affordable, essential quality medicines and technologies.
In October 2018, IDF organised a consultation with the IDF Young Leaders in Diabetes (YLD) and Blue Circle Voices (BCV) networks to gather their views on the UN HLM Political Declaration and IDF’s preliminary statement.

The survey, available in English, French and Spanish, consisted of eight closed-ended questions focused on each of the IDF preliminary statement elements:

1. Implementation of commitments
2. Right to physical and mental health
3. Strengthen health systems
4. National monitoring and accountability
5. Next High Level Meeting on NCDs
6. Multi-sectoral collaboration
7. Financing mechanisms
8. Private sector accountability

The survey also included two open-ended questions for additional comments on the statement and the UN HLM Political Declaration.

**LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION**

A total of 78 respondents participated in the consultation: 48 BCV members, 26 YLD members, and four who collaborate with both networks (Figure 1). The distribution of respondents per region was fairly representative of the networks’ composition.

**OVERALL VIEWS ON THE PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

Of the 78 participants, 71 (91%) were in agreement with the entirety of the statement (Figure 3). A total of seven participants disagreed with at least one component of the statement, and two disagreed with two parts of the statement. (Figure 4)
**INDIVIDUAL ANALYSIS OF THE EIGHT STATEMENT’S ELEMENTS**

**Statement 1**
"The International Diabetes Federation commends the intention of Member States to scale up and accelerate the implementation of their previously agreed commitments and their recognition that progress and investment have been insufficient to meet target 3.4 by 2030."

- **Yes**: 96.2%
- **No**: 2.6%
- **Don’t know**: 1.3%

Two SACA BCV members disagreed with the statement, while a MENA YLD member was unsure.

**Statement 2**
"We welcome the recognition that every person has the right to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health."

- **Yes**: 98.7%
- **Don’t know**: 1.3%

Only one SACA BCV member disagreed with this statement, making it one of the two statements with the highest level of approval (together with statement 3).

**Statement 3**
"We also welcome the recognition of the need to strengthen health systems, services and infrastructure to treat people and prevent and control their risk factors in humanitarian emergencies. IDF would like to see the integration of diabetes care as a core component of the humanitarian response when disaster strikes."

- **Yes**: 98.7%
- **Don’t know**: 1.3%

Only one member was unsure of this statement – a WP YLD member. This was the statement with the highest level of support.

**Statement 4**
"IDF is gravely concerned by the omission in the Political Declaration of the necessary monitoring mechanisms to track progress and make governments accountable."

- **Yes**: 91.0%
- **Don’t know**: 6.4%
- **No**: 2.6%

This was the statement with the highest numbers of non-positive answers – one YLD from AFR and one BCV from SACA disagreed and five members also expressed some uncertainty – three BCVs, one each from MENA, SACA and SEA, and two.

**Statement 5**
"We are concerned that holding the next HLM in 2025 is too late to identify and take any required remedial action."

- **Yes**: 96.2%
- **Don’t know**: 2.6%
- **No**: 1.3%

Two respondents disagreed with the statement – one YLD in MENA and one in WP, with a EUR YLD being unsure.

**Statement 6**
"A pre-requisite to translating commitments into action is adequate funding of prevention and education programmes, essential medicines and care. We will need to see enhanced multi-sectoral collaboration to regulate prices, improve the supply chain and strengthen health systems."

- **Don’t know**: 2.6%
- **Yes**: 97.4%

This statement also attracted widespread support, with only two “Don’t know” responses (from one AFR YLD and one EUR BCV).

**Statement 7**
"We will need new financing sources and funding mechanisms to be developed. IDF regrets Member States’ lack of ambition in this respect and urges them to commit to setting up game-changing financing mechanisms"

- **Yes**: 89.7%
- **Don’t know**: 7.7%
- **No**: 2.6%

This statement received the lowest level of support, with six members unsure of what new funding mechanisms would look like (two from EUR YLDs, two from EUR BCVs, one from a SEA BCV and another from a WP BCV), and two disagreeing outright (one from a NAC YLD and another from a WP YLD).

**Statement 8**
"IDF urges Member States to hold the private sector truly accountable in helping prevent diabetes by producing food products consistent with healthy diets and by preventing and managing diabetes through an improvement in the provision of affordable, essential quality medicines and technologies."

- **Yes**: 93.6%
- **Don’t know**: 5.1%
- **No**: 1.3%

As with question 7, there was a degree of uncertainty as to how this private sector accountability might work. Four participants responded “Don’t know” (one YLD each from NAC, SEA and WP, and one BCV from WP), while one YLD from SACA disagreed altogether.
ADDITIONAL YLD AND BCV FEEDBACK TO THE IDF PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

Seven participants submitted additional comments to the IDF preliminary statement. Many of these comments focused on IDF’s role in bringing diabetes to the political agenda rather than on the statement itself, although two respondents mentioned they would have liked a more strongly-worded response. One participant mentioned the need for IDF to work closely with UNHCR to improve diabetes prevention and control among displaced populations, as well as the importance of continuing to put pressure on governments and ensure their accountability. One BCV respondent from SACA commented that he would have liked the IDF statement to focus more on the importance of the taxation of unhealthy products.

The HLM Political Declaration is a weak document with lots of pieces missing. Governments wash their hands of any type of meaningful commitments with people living with diabetes and NCDs, especially with the most vulnerable populations (BCV from SACA)

YLD AND BCV FEEDBACK TO THE UN HLM POLITICAL

Twelve participants submitted comments to the HLM Political Declaration itself (10 BCV and two YLD members). Most comments agreed on the need for governments to go beyond words and implement meaningful actions to improve the life of people with diabetes and their families (such as free screening and affordable medicines and devices).

Several participants mentioned the fact that the current approach to diabetes, the prevalence of which is on the rise worldwide, is failing and emphasised the need for governments to increase their focus on education (for both people living with diabetes and healthcare professionals) and prevention. One YLD from SEA also suggested that type 1 diabetes in children should be higher up the list of government priorities.

The UN Political Declaration gives a sense of agreement among governments but lacks specific and realistic measures to step up progress in achieving the 2030 goals. The document repeats all the commitments by Member States but makes little reference to action when compared to the agenda timeframes. Also, the next HLM seems very far away (YLD from EUR)

CONCLUSIONS

At the time of the launch of this consultation (October 1, 2018), IDF had 188 members in its networks of people living with diabetes (130 members in BCV, 62 members in YLD, and four people that participate in both networks). Seventy-eight of them participated in this consultation, 41.5% of the total. IDF would have welcomed a higher participation in this survey. However, the level of engagement was satisfactory, given the fact that participants were required to read the UN HLM Political Declaration – a technical document.

The IDF preliminary statement to the UN HLM Political Declaration was overwhelmingly supported by the participants in the consultation. More than 91% of them fully supported the statement, with the lowest level of support relating to the need for new financing sources and mechanisms, and the highest relating to the need to strengthen health systems, services and infrastructures, and integrate diabetes care as a core component of humanitarian.

Only seven respondents disagreed with any parts of the statements, covering some 10 sections altogether. Additionally, 20 “Don’t know” responses were registered from an additional 12 respondents (of the 624 total responses). None of the participants who submitted these answers expressed any additional comments. Consulted about why they had responded the way they did, only five “Don’t know” respondents clarified their answers — they had either not fully understood the question, or considered they lacked sufficient knowledge of the topic to respond.