



Rajendra Pratap Gupta
President

December 7th , 2010

H.E. Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri,
Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations
235 East, 43rd Street, (Between 2nd & 3rd Avenue)
New York 10017, USA

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to write to you on behalf of DMAI (Disease Management Association of India) – Population Health Improvement Alliance concerning UN Resolution 64/265 on the ‘Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)’ and the preparation of a related modalities resolution *that will be discussed shortly by the General Assembly*.

As you will know, Resolution 64/265 called for a High-Level Meeting on NCDs with the participation of Heads of State in September 2011. We campaigned for this resolution because tobacco use is the single largest preventable cause of premature death from cancer, heart disease and lung diseases here in *India*, and around the world. The NCD epidemic has reached such proportions that it now constitutes a major risk to global prosperity, development and political stability.

We wish to request your consideration of the following points with regards to the content of the modalities resolution for the High-Level Meeting currently under discussion:

- **The development and support of a concise Action-Orientated Outcomes Document** to be approved at the end of the High-Level Meeting that will form a clear program of action for governments, the UN system, civil society and other stakeholders.
- **Agreement to a robust reporting mechanism** by member states on the Outcomes Document so that progress can be benchmarked and measured.
- **Formal inclusion of NGOs** in the meeting and consultations leading up to September 2011, including the establishment of a **civil society taskforce** under the office of the President of the General Assembly.
- **That the meeting be two days in length** in order to provide adequate time for discussion and debate between stakeholders. This is vital for an issue of such complexity and gravity.
- **That the following Round Table topics be agreed:**

Disease Management Association of India

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1. Implementation of NCD prevention strategies (*with explicit reference to the FCTC as it is the most effective and cost-effective NCD prevention measure*)
2. NCD control strategies with access to essential medicines and technologies
3. Strengthening national capacities to address NCDs
4. Fostering international cooperation to address NCDs

We would very much appreciate the opportunity for a representative of the Framework Convention Alliance to discuss the UN High-Level Meeting and share our perspectives on the meeting with you or one of your colleagues. At your earliest convenience, please let me know your availability in the coming weeks or we could discuss the same through your India office

We are most grateful to you for giving this letter your attention and we look forward to working with you towards a successful High-Level Meeting in September.

Sincerely,

Copy to:

Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare , Government of India

Shri. S.M.Krishna , Union Minister for External Affairs , Government of India

Dr.K.Srinath Reddy, President , Public Health Foundation of India

Secretary for Health & Family Welfare Government of India

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