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WHO
Message Granted
Bangladesh
13/11/07

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

**MESSAGE TO EVENT MARKING
THE FIRST WORLD DIABETES DAY
New York, 14 November 2007**

This first World Diabetes Day is an occasion to recognize the terrifying rate at which the disease is growing around the world, and to commend the valiant work of the global public health community in preventing and controlling it.

The World Health Organization estimates that more than 180 million people worldwide have diabetes, and that by 2030, the number is likely to more than double. In 2005, more than a million people were estimated to have died from the disease. WHO projects that without urgent action, deaths from diabetes will increase by more than 50 per cent in the next 10 years. Most alarmingly of all, almost 80 per cent of all diabetes deaths happen in low and middle-income countries. That means a double burden for the people of those nations, who are already struggling to cope with the impact of infectious and preventable diseases.

We all need to understand the grave and growing public health problem that diabetes presents across the social and economic spectrum. We need to learn the ways in which most forms of diabetes can be prevented. And we need to act to prevent premature disability and death from diabetes.

That means better and more information, encouragement, and opportunities for a physical activity and a healthy diet. And it means equipping health services to assist in better managing the disease.

On this first World Diabetes Day, let us all join forces in that collective mission. Let us build awareness and galvanize action around the world.



27-12835

Annika Savill/NY/UNO

13/11/2007 03:56 PM

To: abdulalim.bd@gmail.com

cc: Ruxandra Ferascu/NY/UNO

bcc:

Subject: Secretary-General's written message to event marking first
World Diabetes Day, 14 Nov



diabetes2007.doc

Please find attached a message from the Secretary-General, as requested, along with our best wishes for a successful event.

Annika Savill
Deputy Director, Speechwriting
Executive Office of the Secretary-General
United Nations
Room S-3850D
New York, NY 10017
Tel: 1 212 963 6475
Fax: 1 212 963 5965
Email: savill@un.org

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

OUTGOING FACSIMILE

DATE: 9 November 2007

TO: Dr. Margaret Chan Director-General World Health Organization Geneva	FROM: Michael Meyer Director of Communications EOSG New York
TEL. NO:	TEL. NO: 212 963 4092
FAX NO: 41 22 791 4846	FAX NO: (212) 963-5965
SUBJECT: World Diabetes Day, 14 November	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TRANSMITTED PAGES INCLUDING THIS PAGE 2	

The Secretary-General plans to send a message to an event marking the inaugural World Diabetes Day. We would be grateful for WHO's assistance in providing a 300 words draft this message, if possible by Monday 12 November, via e-mail to Mr. Nathan Henninger (henninger@un.org) in the Speechwriting Unit. Apologies for the short notice.

Thank you.

cc: New York Liaison Office
fax: 3.8565



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PERMANENT MISSION OF BANGLADESH
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

227 East 45th Street, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10017

Tel: (212) 867-3434 • Fax: (212) 972-4038 • E-mail: bangladesh@un.int
web site: www.un.int/bangladesh



No. PMNY/07-1780

Date: 24 October 2007

Sub: Message from the Secretary-General on UN World Diabetes Day

ACTION ✓
COPY ✓ RM

My dear Chef de Cabinet,

Message will be sent. — KM 9 NOV

As you would be kindly aware, the UN General Assembly adopted on 20 December 2006 the resolution 61/225 proclaiming November 14 as the UN World Diabetes Day. Bangladesh was the principal sponsor of the draft resolution. This is for the first time that the UN adopted a resolution on a non-communicable disease. One of the principal motivations of Bangladesh was diabetes is no longer a disease of the affluent world; this debilitating condition is spreading now mostly in the developing world with immense burden on their economies and suffering of their people.

The resolution triggered an unprecedented awareness raising campaign, spearheaded by the national governments, often in partnership with the International Diabetic Federation (IDF). Many events have been planned this year, to commemorate the first UN World Diabetes Day. Prominent buildings and sites across the world will be illuminated in blue on November 14th. These include the Empire State Building, Sears Tower, Tokyo Tower, London Eye, Niagara Falls, Sydney Opera House, Taipei 101 (world's tallest building), Burj Al Arabia, Jet d'Eau, CN Tower, Seoul Tower and Buenos Aires Obelisk. It is just one of the many different ways the awareness rising campaign is proceeding, all triggered by the resolution 61/225.

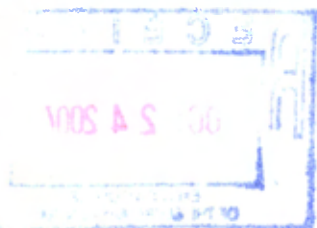
Bangladesh in coordination with IDF will be marking the first UN Diabetes Day on November 14, 2007 at the UNHQ. A panel discussion is being held at the ECOSOC Chamber in the afternoon of November 14th, which I will moderate along with Prof. Martin Silink, President of IDF. This will be followed by a dinner reception at the UNDDR, where all the Permanent and Deputy Permanent Representatives to the UN and senior officials of the UN are being invited. A number of other activities in and around the UN have also been planned.

I trust this would be a befitting occasion for the Secretary-General to issue a special message, as he does in case of important UN Days. I am enclosing some elements for possible use.

The global effort of all member states to observe the first UN Day will remain incomplete without the involvement of the Secretary-General. I would be deeply grateful for your personal intervention in the issuance of the message.

— Warm personal regards
Ismat Jahan

Mr. Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet
UN Headquarters



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Draft Press Release by the Secretary-General**United Nations World Diabetes Day – 14 November 2007**

Today marks the first United Nations World Diabetes Day. Even though it is a non-communicable disease, diabetes has emerged as one of the major epidemics of the 21st century. The United Nations adopted Resolution 61/225 in December 2006 recognizing the threat that diabetes poses to world health.

The World Health Organization reports that chronic diseases, including diabetes, are the leading cause of death and disease burden worldwide. The International Diabetes Federation estimates that the number of people living with diabetes has reached 246 million, representing 6% of the world's adult population, and that this number will grow to 380 million by 2025 if action is not taken. Each 10 seconds, a person dies of diabetes and a further two develop the disease.

Diabetes is a chronic, debilitating and costly disease associated with major complications that affects all age groups and poses severe risks for families, Member States and the entire world. Diabetes also poses serious challenges to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Action to tackle this epidemic will require the strengthening of public-health and health-care delivery systems and the development of national policies for the prevention, treatment and care of diabetes in line with the sustainable development of healthcare systems.

Diabetes is one of the world's major causes of mortality, disability, health-care expenditure and lost economic growth. Yet there are cost-effective and cost-saving strategies that can help prevent diabetes and its complications. The economic benefits of improved diabetes prevention and treatment are relatively higher in the world's low and middle-income countries, where the majority of people with diabetes live but where few are treated adequately.

Health is a fundamental human right. On this, the first UN World Diabetes Day, let us pledge to improve the lives of people living with diabetes and work to prevent millions more from developing diabetes and its complications. The United Nations therefore invites all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to observe World Diabetes Day, in order to raise public awareness of diabetes and related complications, as well as its prevention and care.



General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 January 2007

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 113

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/61/L.39/Rev.1 and Add.1)]

61/225. World Diabetes Day

The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome¹ and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,² as well as the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, in particular the health-related development goals set out therein, and its resolutions 58/3 of 27 October 2003, 60/35 of 30 November 2005 and 60/265 of 30 June 2006,

Recognizing that strengthening public-health and health-care delivery systems is critical to achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing also that diabetes is a chronic, debilitating and costly disease associated with severe complications, which poses severe risks for families, Member States and the entire world and serious challenges to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA42.36 of 19 May 1989 on the prevention and control of diabetes mellitus³ and WHA57.17 of 22 May 2004 on a global strategy on diet, physical activity and health,⁴

Welcoming the fact that the International Diabetes Federation has been observing 14 November as World Diabetes Day at a global level since 1991, with co-sponsorship of the World Health Organization,

Recognizing the urgent need to pursue multilateral efforts to promote and improve human health, and provide access to treatment and health-care education,

1. *Decides* to designate 14 November, the current World Diabetes Day, as a United Nations Day, to be observed every year beginning in 2007;

¹ See resolution 60/1.

² See resolution 55/2.

³ See World Health Organization, *Forty-second World Health Assembly, Geneva, 8–19 May 1989, Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes* (WHA42/1989/REC/1).

⁴ *Ibid.*, *Fifty-seventh World Health Assembly, Geneva, 17–22 May 2004, Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes* (WHA57/2004/REC/1).

2. *Invites* all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to observe World Diabetes Day in an appropriate manner, in order to raise public awareness of diabetes and related complications, as well as its prevention and care, including through education and the mass media;

3. *Encourages* Member States to develop national policies for the prevention, treatment and care of diabetes in line with the sustainable development of their health-care systems, taking into account the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system.

*83rd plenary meeting
20 December 2006*