

FDI World Dental Federation STRATEGIC PLAN 2024–2027

Advancing oral health globally to improve people's lives



INTRODUCTION

As a membership federation rooted in commitment to ensuring optimal oral health globally, FDI World Dental Federation (FDI) works with its members to promote best practices in the sector through effective knowledge exchange approaches, leads global advocacy focused on oral health to promote political action in all countries, and builds capacity through grants, awards, and a development fund. FDI is the leading voice of the dental profession and represents over one million dentists globally.

With an impactful history as one of the oldest dentistry-focused organizations, FDI is a leader in the global fight to deliver optimal oral health to all. FDI and its members are committed to expanding awareness of the vital importance of good oral health and its critical role in securing overall health and well-being. As the membership federation models a holistic approach that ties oral health to general health, there is a need to renew our strategic plan that will position the federation to expand its impact, further raising the profile of oral health nationally and globally.

The following document lays out FDI's clear niche across the ever-evolving global health and development sectors, including noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), over the next four years. The linkages between oral health and NCDs, including shared risk factors, underscore the need for a common response – one that FDI is well positioned to lead. FDI and its members are poised to accelerate progress toward *Vision 2030: Delivering Optimal Oral Health for All* and build on the momentum underway to safeguard the health of people worldwide.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



OUR VISION

A world with optimal oral health.



OUR MISSION

FDI is the leading global voice of the dental profession, working with members to improve oral health worldwide.



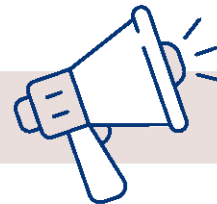
OUR VALUES

Commitment to members | Integrity
Culture of inclusiveness | Service
Ethical behaviour



KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Build a robust community of skilled, engaged, and informed dental professionals and partners.



ADVOCACY

Mobilize advocacy efforts to increase oral health literacy and achieve political commitment and action on oral health for all.



INNOVATION

Position the oral health community to ensure the dental profession is responsible, sustainable, and responsive to emerging and evolving technologies in dentistry.

KEY ENABLERS



Membership



Governance



Partnerships



Operational efficiency



PILLAR 1: KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE



Goal: Build a robust community of skilled, engaged, and informed dental professionals and partners.

Key objectives

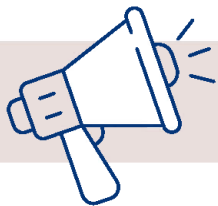
- Provide timely and relevant continuing education opportunities for our members.
- Convene to advance research, knowledge transfer, and build unity around key policies and priorities.
- Provide members with training and networking opportunities.
- Build ties and networks among dental professionals at the regional level.
- Create exchanges of skills and experiences in low-resource settings.
- Launch engaging virtual education opportunities.

Illustrative activities

- **FDI's World Dental Congress** is an annual flagship continuing education event that brings together dental professionals, researchers, educators, and industry leaders from around the world. It serves as a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange, showcasing the latest advancements in dentistry, and fostering collaboration and networking opportunities. The model is replicated through smaller regional congresses that focus on a scientific programme, which is targeted to that specific geographical location.
- Designed to support ongoing professional development, the diverse range of **continuing education (CE) opportunities** are available through multiple platforms, including: face-to-face lectures, courses and workshops, as well as online through the FDI Oral Health Campus and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).
- Targeting early career dentists and dental students, the **Young Dentists Forum** is a vibrant platform that joins professionals from across the globe, fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and mentorship opportunities.
- FDI's official open-access publication, the **International Dental Journal (IDJ)**, features peer-reviewed articles relevant to international oral health issues, as well as informative articles aimed at clinicians. IDJ is an essential learning resource that empowers dental professionals to stay at the leading edge of their field, driving innovation and improving patient care worldwide.
- The diverse **Education and Public Health Projects** aim to improve oral health globally, through the establishment of innovative prevention and access programmes in disadvantaged populations, as well as by addressing pertinent topics and emerging issues of global relevance.
- We support our members through **capacity-building workshops** that range in focus from tackling oral health risk factors and disease-specific strategies to emerging opportunities on the global health and development agenda.



PILLAR 2: ADVOCACY



Goal: Mobilize advocacy efforts to increase oral health literacy and achieve political commitment and action on oral health for all.

Key objectives

- Drive the implementation of *Vision 2030: Delivering Optimal Oral Health for All*.
- Enhance the advocacy capacity of our members to strengthen and expand the reach of regional and in-country advocacy impact.
- Catalyze partnerships, networks, policies, and programmes to advance oral health as an essential component of general health and well-being.
- Integrate oral health into the prevention and treatment of other NCDs as well as into the universal health coverage (UHC) agenda.
- Equip members and patient advocates with tools, resources, and approaches to effectively influence and shape oral health priorities on a national and global scale.
- Hold governments accountable for commitments made in global resolutions, oral health policies, declarations, action plans, and monitoring frameworks.
- Establish and contribute to alliances and networks that can collectively accelerate political commitment and action on NCDs, broaden the visibility of NCDs on the global agenda, influence global policy, and advance related agendas (e.g., UHC, antibiotic resistance, healthy ageing, etc.).

Illustrative activities

- We develop and share policies, standards, and information related to all aspects of oral healthcare around the world through our **policy statements**, which are produced by FDI's Standing Committees through consultation, discussion, and consensus among our member organizations. **World Oral Health Day** celebrated on 20 March is the largest global awareness campaign on oral health. The materials and resources developed by FDI can be adapted at a local level and used to engage the public, health care professionals, policymakers, and partners to amplify efforts in the prevention and control of oral diseases.
- FDI's **global advocacy efforts** aim to influence policy outcomes. By mobilizing our members and other stakeholders through sharing template letters, toolkits, white papers, and statements as well as consolidating their input into official consultations by UN agencies (the World Health Organization, United Nations Environment Programme, etc.), we unite in our asks and collectively have a stronger voice.
- By **forming alliances and working in partnership** with organizations such as the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA) and the NCD Alliance we champion interprofessional collaboration and play a key role in integrating oral health into the broader NCD and UHC agendas.



PILLAR 3: INNOVATION



Goal: Position the oral health community to ensure the dental profession is responsible, sustainable, and responsive to emerging and evolving technologies in dentistry.

Key objectives

- Promote environmental sustainability within dentistry.
- Vet and advance new technologies in dentistry in service of expanding access to oral health.
- Ensure a balanced approach in the uptake of technology that accounts for the breadth of FDI's membership, and which is tailored to different regions and environments.
- Provide informed guidance and recommendations around the use and regulation of new and emerging technologies (digitization of health records, use of artificial intelligence, etc.).
- Generate leadership positions on new alternative materials linked to the Minamata Convention on Mercury and ensure that they are safe, accessible, affordable, and durable as well as environmentally sound.

Illustrative activities

- FDI collaborates with its pool of global experts and members to **develop evidence-based responses** and position statements on key matters such as alternatives to dental amalgam.
- We seek multi-stakeholder inputs and collaborate with our partners to map out strategies and implement solutions to help reduce the **environmental impact of dentistry** and the dental industry.
- We support the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals through leading efforts on **antibiotic stewardship in dentistry** and infection prevention and control.
- We work to advance the integration of oral health indicators into **electronic health records**.
- We organize sustainability summits to convene experts, researchers, and industry stakeholders to **exchange and uphold best practices**. Additionally, we conduct MOOCs to educate dental practitioners on adopting more sustainable practices.
- We join our partners in endorsing and responsibly upholding the **Consensus Statement on Environmentally Sustainable Oral Healthcare**.

KEY ENABLERS

Our strategic enablers underpin and support the work FDI carries out across our strategic pillars. FDI's efficiency, success, and impact hinge on the strategic enablers.



Membership

FDI's members are our greatest asset and strengthen our work at every level. When we have access to the wealth of knowledge and expertise our members possess, and better understand the challenges and resource gaps they face, we can support our members in the most relevant and appropriate manner. Regular consultation with members, as well as developing activities tailored to their needs, are essential to help raise the profile of oral health at the national level and to support efforts at a global level.



Governance

FDI's governance is rooted in its core values. The FDI General Assembly is the supreme legislative and governing body and is responsible for setting FDI's policies, mission, and aims, plus its strategic plan. Our governance is bolstered by the ongoing input from our members and continuous improvement processes to foster representation, diversity of opinion, and democracy.



Operational efficiency

FDI is committed to responsibly and strategically utilizing and allocating its resources, ensuring policies and procedures are current and reflect its values and the ambitions of its four-year strategic plan and Vision 2030. FDI is also dedicated to maintaining a high level of competent and performance-based organizational leadership that demonstrates accountability.



Partnerships

Each FDI partner is unique and essential in empowering individuals to take care of their mouths and bodies, raising the profile of oral health on the global health agenda, and furthering our vision of achieving optimal oral health for all. Together, we extend our reach and amplify our impact.





CORE VALUES

FDI and its members share core values that underpin and guide work we do and how we carry it out.

Commitment to members

As a federation of national dental associations and other specialist groups, we are committed to ensuring our members' interests are represented at the global level and to bolstering their efforts at the national level.

Integrity

We are steadfast in our respect for moral values, accountability to commitments, due diligence, and constancy of methods. As the authentic voice of the dental profession, our work is pertinent, apt, and driven by the greater good of the dental profession and the public at large.

Culture of inclusiveness

We deliberately and meaningfully engage and seek representation from the diverse range of oral health professionals and the communities and individuals they serve. This is paramount to achieving our mission.

Ethical behaviour

An ethical code of behaviour guides our mission and the ways in which we work. We respect the rights, dignity, and equality of each individual, act with fairness, and reject all forms of discrimination and injustice. We emphasize that the International Principles of Ethics for the Dental Profession should be guidelines for every dentist and members of dental teams.

Service

FDI's efforts are in service to the betterment of the health of individuals and communities. FDI and the vast community of dentists worldwide promote oral health to safeguard the overall health of current and future generations.



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