



**FDI World Dental Federation**  
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## **FDI Hosts No Noma Day Planning Meeting at Head Office**

GENEVA, 02 JULY 2007 – More than 15 representatives from the No Noma Federation, FDI World Dental Federation, Winds Of Hope Foundation and World Health Organization convened at the FDI Head Office in Ferney Voltaire on 22 May for the planning of the first World No Noma Day. The launch of the World No Noma Day will take place on 22 May 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland at the International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG).

Participants at the planning meeting included Dr Bertrand Piccard, co-founder of the Winds of Hope Foundation, Dr Luis Sambo, Director of WHO's Regional Office for Africa (WHO/AFRO) and Dr JT Barnard, FDI Executive Director. The leaders of the three organisations reaffirmed their commitment at the meeting as partners for the first World No Noma Day.

"We must look at Noma at all its facets and address the significance of the other risk factors like poverty, malnutrition and hygiene. Although eradication is the ultimate goal, we must also look at those already affected. Organisation and good management is necessary to provide the resources necessary to maximise results. The WHO is committed at both regional and global level," said Dr Sambo.

"The Winds of Hope Foundation has long worked with WHO/AFRO on efforts to eradicate Noma and currently supports projects in six African nations. The aim of the No Noma Federation is to organise a World No Noma Day is to educate the public in both the developed and developing worlds of all income levels about the preventable disfiguring disease of Noma. While we are only planning our first World No Noma Day, we hope that one day we will be able to put an end to the disease and celebrate No More Noma Day," said Dr Piccard.

"The FDI believes that there is no general health without oral health. More than 90% of oral diseases, including Noma, can be prevented. We hope that the scientific sessions planned for next year's World No Noma Day will inform government officials, health professionals and the public on what can be done to eradicate this disease that touches the poorest of the poor," said Dr Barnard.

For more information about the 2008 World No Noma Day, please visit [www.nonoma.org](http://www.nonoma.org).

### **ABOUT WINDS OF HOPE FOUNDATION**

Winds of Hope Foundation was created in 1999 by Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones after their non-stop around the world flight in a balloon. Winds of Hope has set out three main objectives to fight Noma:

1. **Take action in the field:** The Foundation funds programs for the prevention and early detection of Noma. Its primary intent is not to substitute organisations that are already active in the field, but to provide African countries with the means to implement simple and low-cost national programs that have a high multiplier effect, and which are accessible and useful to the greatest number of people.
2. **Mobilize international aid:** Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones use their fame not only to earn financial support, but also to mobilize international aid, public opinion and political, financial and economic powers. This aspect entails holding informational events and pleading in favor of eradicating Noma at conferences and hearings with government authorities.

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3. **Unite:** Numerous private organisations have already started fighting Noma in several countries. While their action is certainly effective, it is most often carried out independently, without any real coordination among them. Winds of Hope has therefore brought them together under an umbrella organisation it presides called the No Noma Federation, created in 2003 to develop synergies both locally and internationally.

For more information about the Foundation, please visit our website at [www.windsofhope.org](http://www.windsofhope.org)

#### **ABOUT THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

The World Health Organization is the United Nations specialized agency for health. WHO's objective, as set out in its Constitution, is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health.

#### **ABOUT THE FDI WORLD DENTAL FEDERATION**

Based in Ferney-Voltaire, France, the FDI World Dental Federation is one of the oldest international professional organisations in the world. The FDI currently has a membership of more than 130 national dental associations from more than 125 countries, representing nearly 1 million dentists globally. It is governed by a Council elected by a General Assembly that is made up of delegates from its member associations. Its vision is leading the world to optimal oral health and its missions are to be the worldwide, authoritative and independent voice of the dental profession; to promote optimal oral and general health for all peoples; to promote the interests of the Member Associations and their members; and to advance and promote the ethics, art, science and practice of dentistry. For more information about the FDI World Dental Federation, please visit [www.fdiworldental.org](http://www.fdiworldental.org).

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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