



**International Diabetes Federation**

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Chair IDF African Region

## **The 1<sup>st</sup> East Africa Diabetes Summit 11 – 14 July 2011, Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala**

With economic development and rapid urbanisation, East African countries are witnessing a significant increase in the rates diabetes and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases and cancer. Together with communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria these diseases pose a serious challenge to the already overstretched health care systems in the East African Region. Currently, an estimated 3.2% of the adult population are living with diabetes and the number is set to double by 2030 with a negative impact on health systems and economies in the region.

We know how to address and prevent this problem; however, it requires high-level national commitment and concrete action. The Diabetes Declaration and Strategy for Africa was a landmark call for action by WHO-AFRO, the African Union and the International Diabetes Federation in 2006 to mobilise governments to prevent and control diabetes and related chronic diseases. Sustainable commitment by all stakeholders is needed to ensure better diabetes prevention and management. This golden opportunity lies in the planned UN Summit September 2011.

During 19 – 20th September 2011, at the UN headquarters in New York, Heads of State will convene to discuss the scale and solutions for diabetes and the related NCDs and we hope to witness commitments made as never before, and a resource flow to match. Therefore the September UN Summit on NCDs will undoubtedly be the political opportunity of a lifetime for the global diabetes community to secure strong diabetes outcomes. The East Africa diabetes community needs every support to mobilise for action and join the rest of the World as we move full speed ahead towards this very important UN Summit on NCDs and secure strong sustainable diabetes outcomes. An East Africa Diabetes Summit will reinforce East African partnerships and commitments to form united efforts and create common ground ahead of the UN Summit on NCDs in 2011.

### **The 1<sup>st</sup> East Africa Diabetes Summit, 11 – 14 July 2011, Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Theme: SETTING THE PACE: Comprehensive Approach for Managing Diabetes & other NCDs in the East African Community**

The 'East Africa Diabetes Summit' is a high-level meeting to be held at the Commonwealth Speke Hotel Resort, Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda on 11<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011. The meeting is aligned with several action points in the Diabetes Declaration and Strategy for Africa and seeks to involve key stakeholders in committing to actionable strategies to move the agenda forward in advance of the UN Heads of State Summit on NCDs in September 2011.

The meeting is organised by the **International Diabetes Federation (IDF) Africa Region** and is sponsored by diabetes interest groups, Novo Nordisk and other pharma within the East African Community. We are currently engaged in high level discussions with the East African Community as a primary supporter of this meeting. The meeting has no commercial links and no product promotion.

**We are delighted to extend this cordial invitation to you to participate in this very important meeting, and kindly request you to block these dates on your calendar.**





The East Africa Diabetes Summit is an important initiative for East Africa in 2011 that will review current trends and initiatives within diabetes, NCDs, and related health systems challenges. Senior decision-makers as well as key international figures and organisations within health and development are expected to speak at the meeting.

The East Africa Diabetes Summit will bring together more than 250 key stakeholders and leaders to discuss ambitions, priorities and actions for change in diabetes and NCDs within East Africa. Attendees will include ministers of health from East Africa, government officials, intergovernmental and regional organisations, the academia, donors, NGOs, patient organisations, healthcare professionals, key opinion leaders and media.

The Diabetes Summit will aim at addressing key questions:

- How can we prevent diabetes from becoming the next devastating epidemic in East Africa?
- How do we create synergies between prevention and control of NCDs and communicable diseases?
- What is required to strengthen existing health systems which are more responsive to acute care and tackle the increasing burden of NCDs in East Africa?
- Which innovative approaches have been implemented?
- Which key areas should be considered to attract funding?
- How do we take the developing momentum forward into the upcoming UN Summit?
- What curriculum is suitable for training health workers so as to enable them be effective in managing NCDs
- What is the research agenda of the region in the area of diabetes and other NCDs?

The East African Diabetes Summit will provide a platform to allow countries to develop and strengthen national policies and programmes targeting diabetes and other NCDs. The involvement of the East Africa Community is vital to the discussions on health system integration and strengthening to address the double disease burden and we sincerely hope that despite your many other important engagements you will be able to take part in this very important dialogue.

An overview of the preliminary programme is enclosed. Should it be possible for you to accept this invitation, we shall be delighted to provide you with further information as may be required. We do hope that you would be able to join and participate in the meeting and we look forward to a stimulating and mutually beneficial dialogue within the East African Community, and beyond.

Dr. Bahendeka K. Silver

**Chair IDF African Region &**

**On behalf of the 1<sup>st</sup> East Africa Diabetes Summit Organising Committee**

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