

Open Letter to the leadership of the United Nations General Assembly

To: Secretariat UNGA

Cc: G7 Foreign Ministers and G7 Sherpas

Your Excellencies:

We would like to applaud the United Nations General Assembly for putting global health, particularly neglected and poverty-related diseases, at the forefront of the global development agenda this year.

Together, we represent a group of experts, advocates, researchers and implementing partners from public and private sector organizations that share a vision of a world free from dengue fever. Our work is underpinned by the formation of a global coalition called Dengue VOICE – a consensus-based approach, which captures our commitment to accelerate progress towards the World Health Organization's 2020 prevention and control targets.

Following the second annual Dengue VOICE meeting which took place in Paris on 10–11 October, we are writing to urge you to back a global call for a global 'Dengue Day'. We feel strongly that this will help to provide a rallying point for prevention and control efforts, and help the Dengue VOICE implement a collective plan of action to fill the remaining gaps, ensuring we reach all people at risk from dengue.

Dengue fever has the potential to affect the health and economic futures of nearly 3.5 billion people across the world – with endemic regions such as Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia particularly affected.

These detrimental health consequences have a spill over effect on the economic progress of families and communities, perpetuating the cycle of poverty. In short, dengue fever is inextricably linked to child health, poverty and inequality; and our effort to formulate comprehensive, holistic solution which includes vector control, disease surveillance, patient advocacy, HCP and NGO involvement, innovative and intensified disease management, preventive chemotherapy, vector ecology and management, veterinary public-health services, and the provision of safe water, sanitation and hygiene. Our Dengue VOICE viewpoint is that we are all very much in this together.

Only partnerships (SDG #17) will successfully face the dengue threat, including its health consequences (SDG #3) together with its burden on communities (SDG #11) and the economic impact on families (SDG #1). A global 'Dengue Day' will form the basis of a global and integrated movement to tackle dengue fever.

We enthusiastically welcome the UNGA's leadership on dengue this year, which builds on the UNGA's longstanding commitments to tackling this problem – having a global 'Dengue Day' will be a huge step forward for this collective effort.

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International Society for
Neglected Tropical Diseases



Nicholas Brooke
Break Dengue

