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Mr Alain Berset
Conseiller fédéral et chef du
Département fédéral de l'intérieur
(DFI)
Inselgasse 1
CH-3003 Berne

Geneva, 01 July 2013

Dear Mr Berset,

On behalf of the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG), a member of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) we write to express our sincere gratitude for the Swiss government's support of the resolution on non-communicable diseases (NCDs), adopted at the sixty-sixth World Health Assembly in Geneva in May 2013. We applaud your leadership in the adoption of this landmark resolution.

The NCD resolution, entitled "Follow up to the Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of NCDs", is a defining moment in the global NCD response. Within this resolution, Member States adopted the Global Monitoring Framework for NCDs, including the first set of 9 global targets and 25 indicators; endorsed the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020; and agreed to establish a global coordination mechanism for NCDs by the end of 2013.

This groundbreaking resolution fulfills commitments made in the 2011 UN Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of NCDs, and signals consensus on the three pillars of the global NCD architecture - action, accountability and coordination. It is the culmination of 18 months of lengthy and complex consultations, which the NCD Alliance and the International Society of Geriatric Oncology have contributed to.

Now it is the responsibility of governments to translate these political commitments into practical action at the national level. Our organization, the International Society of Geriatric Oncology stands ready to work with the government of Switzerland to tackle cancer. We have the expertise and knowledge to support the government of Switzerland fulfill the commitments in the WHA resolution on NCDs, including the development or strengthening of national cancer and NCD plans and the establishment of a national monitoring frameworks for NCDs with appropriate targets and indicators. Through collaborative partnerships with civil society organisations such as the International Society of Geriatric Oncology, we can improve the health of our citizens, and ensure Switzerland is recognised as a champion in the global NCD response.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Arti Hurria
SIOG President