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Dr Bill O'Reilly
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10 December 2012

Dear Dr O'Reilly,

Thank you for your letter dated 14 November 2012, addressed to Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO).

In your letter, you expressed concern that oral health appears to be excluded from the Draft Twelfth WHO General Programme of Work for the period 2014-2019. You also asked WHO to recognize oral health both in the WHO General Programme of Work 2014-2019 and in the Global Monitoring Framework for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases.

Due to the global financial crisis, WHO is currently experiencing severe financial constraints making it critical to identify priorities for action. Although there are funding gaps, I am pleased to assure you that Oral Health will be covered in the Twelfth General Programme of Work. WHO is fully committed to the implementation of resolution WHA60.17 and has, in the Global Monitoring Framework, proposed indicators based on common risk factors for the control of certain oral diseases. We are also actively engaged in mobilizing resources to ensure the continuation of the Oral Health Programme.

We look forward to your continued collaboration to strengthen WHO's work for better oral health.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Oleg Chestnov
Assistant Director-General
Noncommunicable Diseases and
Mental Health