



Advocating for people with type 1 diabetes around the world

June 2017

Dear Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,

Congratulations on your election to Director-General of the World Health Organization. This is an impressive accomplishment.

It was with great pleasure that we learned of your nomination. We noted with approval that you were one of the few candidates who consistently spoke of the challenges facing people trying to survive diabetes in low and middle-income countries.ⁱ

We believe that increasing access to insulin and diabetes supplies is a key step towards universal health care. Increasing access will uphold human dignity and ensure life for millions with diabetes worldwide. Many of us supported the Cape Town Declarationsⁱⁱ of 2016 on the need for #insulin4all and for action on diabetic foot care. We hope that under your leadership the World Health Organization will dedicate additional attention and resources to one of the world's largest growing health concerns: diabetes.ⁱⁱⁱ

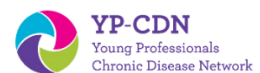
We are also aware of many leading initiatives coming from your home country of Ethiopia. Among these, the new Black Lion Hospital diabetic foot care clinic and the Ethiopian Diabetes Association's long-standing support of people with type 1 and type 2 diabetes, which is also the first patient based association in the country.^{iv} We hope that initiatives such as these are continually supported and replicated in other countries.

We are in complete agreement with your support for universal health care for all. We remain eager and ready to assist you and the staff at the World Health Organization in pursuing a health for all agenda that includes #insulin4all.

Respectfully yours,



Meethi Zindagi



T1International is a registered charity (CIO) in England and Wales (1168249).





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ⁱ Horton R, Samarasekera U. WHO's Director-General candidates: visions and priorities. Lancet. 2016 Oct 29;388 (10056):2072-2095.

ⁱⁱ T1International. The Cape Town Declarations of Action: Saving Limbs, Saving Lives and the Need for #insulin4all: <https://www.t1international.com/cape-town-declarations>

ⁱⁱⁱ Quigley, F. Making Insulin Affordable: <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/world/2017-03-13/making-insulin-affordable>

^{iv} Ethiopian Diabetes Association: <http://www.diabetesethiopia.org.et>

