



World Dental Federation
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**Resolution on Dental Amalgam,
Approved by General Assembly 02.09.2009**

Preamble

The General Assembly of the 2009 FDI World Dental Federation Annual World Dental Congress, considering and recognising;

- FDI policy statements on dental amalgam (Safety of Dental Amalgam, GA Sept 2007),
- the Council of European Dentists resolution on dental amalgam (CED General Meeting, May 2007)
- American Dental Association Council on Scientific Affairs statement on dental amalgam (August 2009)

reiterates and stresses that amalgam is a safe, widely-used and affordable dental filling material and currently serves the oral health needs of the majority of communities around the world, particularly those most disadvantaged and in need of dental treatment.

This FDI General Assembly:

- acknowledges its responsibilities with regard to mercury and dental amalgam, in terms of global health and the environment. Having adopted policy statements Amalgam Waste Management [GA 2006] and Mercury Hygiene Guidance [GA 2007], this assembly reaffirms its commitment to upholding best environmental practices with regard to dental amalgam
- is conscious that currently available restorative materials may not represent economically viable, affordable alternatives in many circumstances, most particularly in developing countries where the use of alternatives may present additional clinical, logistical, economic and infrastructure challenges
- notes with grave concern that general restrictions governing the use of mercury may lead to a significant global public health problem, with respect to the delivery of dental care.
- encourages national and targeted oral health promotion programmes in order to reduce the need for restorative interventions.
- emphasises that the dental professional has an obligation to work within the legal framework governing mercury containing products

Policy response framework: FDI recommends to its member organizations that:

1. FDI should continue to collate all the relevant health and environmental data regarding dental amalgam in a single resource to ensure that the issues are accurately described and that discussions are based on the best available science

2. FDI should continue to collaborate and work closely with IADR, IFDEA, IDM, ISO and other international stakeholders in addressing this issue
3. FDI and its constituent national dental associations should communicate with a unified voice on the issue of dental amalgam, based on and supported by best available science
4. FDI should be the sole representative of the international dental practice community within the United Nations Environmental Programme Global Mercury Partnership and at the United Nations and World Health Organisation consultations on global mercury
5. National dental associations should adopt a pro-active role with their governments with respect to national regulations regarding mercury
4. Responsible initiatives with respect to collecting and disposal of unused elemental mercury retained in dental offices (excluding that held in capsules) and the use of amalgam separators complying with ISO 11143* would assist the dental community in demonstrating its commitment to protecting global health and the environment
5. The profession should continue to support the development of safe and affordable dental restorative materials
6. FDI should lead the process of establishing a new paradigm for managing dental caries and its consequences, one that is based on the best available science, so as to achieve optimal oral health

** The ISO 11143 Standard Specification for Amalgam separators designed to remove amalgam particles and reduce mass of amalgam entering sewage system.*