



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CONTROL OF
IODINE DEFICIENCY DISORDERS

STATEMENT BY ICCIDD TO THE 63rd WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
By DR. GERARD R BURROW, CHAIR OF ICCIDD, 21 MAY 2010,
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.

Iodine deficiency disorders are the leading cause of preventable mental retardation. Aware of IDD as a public health problem, the Health Assembly affirmed the issue in 1990, and in 2007 and 2008 resolved that member states report on their progress on iodine status on a triennial basis. The member states are to be commended for their actions in this area.

Global estimates of households with access to iodized salt have risen from 20% to 70% during this period, However that still leaves almost two billion people uncovered. The goal is sustainable elimination of iodine deficiency disorders, which requires ongoing advocacy at the country level. Therefore, monitoring and evaluation of the impact of programs to eliminate IDD are critical to ensure that the interventions are both effective and safe in protecting the developing fetal brain.

My organization, the Iodine Council for the Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders, along with WHO as members of the Global Network for Sustained Elimination of Iodine Deficiency Disorders strongly support national efforts to accelerate the goal of the elimination of IDD by promoting collaboration among public and private sectors, scientific and civic organizations.