

The Role of Orthodontics in the Global Strategy on Oral Health

Dr. María Antonieta Pérez-Boza*

Orthodontist, Strategic Clinical Consultant, USA.

***Corresponding Author:** Dr. María Antonieta Pérez-Boza, Orthodontist, Strategic Clinical Consultant, USA.

<https://doi.org/10.58624/SVOADE.2025.06.016>

Received: May 27, 2025

Published: June 09, 2025

Citation: Pérez-Boza MA. The Role of Orthodontics in the Global Strategy on Oral Health. *SVOA Dentistry* 2025, 6:3, 95-96. doi: 10.58624/SVOADE.2025.06.016

Oral health is in the spotlight. Organizations and institutions consistently emphasise the relationship between oral health conditions and other non-communicable diseases (NCD) that affect wide segments of the global population.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has published the “Global strategy and action plan on oral health 2023–2030” providing detailed guidance for the different stakeholders, to increase accessibility and affordability of oral healthcare.

A change in perspective is promoted: a paradigm shift towards a preventive approach and the integration of oral health within the health system structures, including universal health coverage (UHC), NCD strategies and national development agendas through “multisectoral collaboration, coordinated advocacy and strategic investment” (Gerhard Wolf, T. et al., 2021)

The link between oral health and general health is evident. They share common risk factors as well as social, environmental and economic determinants. The link not only shares light on predisposition but also impacts the treatment outcomes of NCDs.

WHO highlights the need to address the predisposing risks and also the root causes of the most prevalent oral health conditions, periodontal disease and dental caries, which affect 3.7 billion people globally, nearly half of the world’s total population. Oral diseases cost the world \$710 billion annually. In the European Union, the cost of oral, dental and jaw diseases ranks third, after cardiovascular problems and diabetes.

There are six guiding principles of the Global Strategy on Oral Health: “a public health approach to oral health” and integration into primary healthcare; innovation in the workforce models to address the needs of the population, “people-centred”; customised interventions and optimisation of digital technologies.

The fourth strategic objective is “oral health care” and the actions proposed include the participation of member states, WHO secretariat, international partners, civil society organisations and the private sector. These actions are environmentally conscious and sustainable.

While the policy making and financial decisions are in the hands of government, competent organisations and institutions, as dental professionals, and as orthodontists, we could make significant contributions to improve oral health following the guidelines of the WHO.

Orthodontics, preventive in nature, helps reduce the prevalence of periodontal disease and dental caries when malocclusions are treated and proper alignment and function are re-established. Interceptive treatment plays a major role in correcting skeletal and respiratory problems creating an environment in which the full growth potential of patients can be expressed.

By rethinking and reframing our role as healthcare providers, we could expand our area of influence to offer our services broadly, using the digital innovations available, treating and educating patients. The remote monitoring tools available could allow us to develop coordinated efforts to provide care in distant and underserved populations, increasing access to high quality and safe care while also optimising timely referrals if needed.

How we engage and build ethical and long term partnerships with manufacturers in the private sector could also help to shape innovation towards increasing oral health care with cost effective, environmentally responsible and sustainable products, in line with the public health principles and the Global Oral Health Action Plan, with a preventive focus, as well as considering public health programs and the needs of the population when creating, implementing and executing research agendas.

Inspired by the Bangkok Declaration, “no health without oral health”, there is no oral health prevention without orthodontics. Let’s get involved in elevating oral health as a global priority.

References

1. Gerhard Wolf, T., Cagetti, M., Fisher, M., Konrad Seeberger, G., Campus, G. (2021) Non- communicable Diseases and Oral Health: An Overview. *Frontiers in Oral Health*, 2, 6.
2. Global strategy and action plan on oral health 2023–2030. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2024. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO.

Copyright: © 2025 Pérez-Boza MA et al. All rights reserved.

This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.