PARIS, July 23, 2014 – On the heels of the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference (AAIC), attended by more than 4,300 Alzheimer’s scientists from around the world, the World Dementia Council met to discuss research collaboration and regulation of clinical trials. Harry Johns, president and CEO of the Alzheimer’s Association and newly appointed member of the World Dementia Council, participated in the meeting on behalf of the at least 44 million people worldwide living with dementia, including more than 5 million Americans living with the Alzheimer’s disease, and their caregivers.

“The Alzheimer’s Association and its far-reaching community are honored to join the World Dementia Council,” said Johns. “The Alzheimer’s Association is the largest nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's disease research and the most impactful Alzheimer’s nonprofit globally, according to Thomson Reuters. We are unrelenting in our commitment to ending Alzheimer’s disease and its devastation on families around the world.”

The World Dementia Council was formed at the invitation of the U.K. government to support the World Dementia Envoy, Dr. Dennis Gillings, in his role of championing innovation in dementia across diagnosis, treatment and care to unlock greater amounts of investment. The goal of the Council is to stimulate innovation, development and commercialization of life enhancing drugs, treatments and care for people with dementia, and in protection of those at risk of dementia, within a generation.

The Council also discussed the Global Action Against Dementia Legacy Events stemming from the first-ever G8 (now G7) Dementia Summit organized by U.K. Prime Minister Cameron in December 2013. Health leaders from G7 governments convened in Copenhagen last week at AAIC 2014 for a session titled “The Global Action Against Dementia Legacy Events – Towards an Integrated Follow-Up Plan to the UK G8 Summit on Dementia.”
The biggest barrier to accomplishing the goal of the first-ever U.S. National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease – preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer’s disease by 2025 – is funding. Currently, for every $26,500 Medicare and Medicaid spend on caring for individuals with Alzheimer’s, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) spends only $100 on Alzheimer’s research.

“The adoption of the 2025 goal by the G7 shows a global commitment to the Alzheimer’s crisis, but it will take increased investment to be successful,” said Johns. “We have seen other diseases realize significant progress when given the proper funding, and we must now follow that proven path.”

For more information on Alzheimer’s and other dementias around the world, visit the Alzheimer’s Association at alz.org/global.

Alzheimer’s Association
The Alzheimer’s Association is the world’s leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer’s care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer’s disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer’s. For more information, visit www.alz.org.