



*FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ORGANISATIONS DE DONNEURS DE SANG
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BLOOD DONOR ORGANIZATIONS
FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE ORGANIZACIONES DE DONANTES DE SANGRE*

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World Blood Donor Day 2009

On World Blood Donor Day we celebrate the blood donors, who save millions of lives and bring relief to patients with cancer, malaria, blood diseases and a number of other diseases. There is no substitute for blood and blood components, so without blood many patients would die.

This year the theme for the World Blood Donor Day **put emphasis on improving the safety and sufficiency of blood supplies though the achievement of 100 per cent voluntary non-remunerated donation of blood and blood components.**

We especially urge countries that are establishing or expanding blood component programmes to base these on programmes on 100 per cent voluntary non-remunerated donation.

And we encourage countries that have developed mechanisms for the procurement of blood products to establish cooperation with other countries to secure adequate supplies of blood products based on voluntary non-remunerated donations.

Blood donors come from all walks of life and all parts of the world, and every year they give more than 81 million blood donations. We may all one day need treatment by blood, but only one percent of the world's population gives blood. So we need many more donors, if all patients shall be guaranteed proper treatment with safe blood.

Many simply do not know about the need for blood. The world must unite to spread the lifesaving message, that any healthy person can be a donor.

The act of blood donation is unique, and blood donors are special people. We should all salute these everyday heroes, who want to help their fellow human beings.

We need them – and we need more good people, who will give a part of themselves to others.

Niels Mikkelsen
President