

Application from the International Society of Audiology for admission into official relations with WHO

1. Year of establishment of the organization: 1953

2.(a) Address of the headquarters of the organization

Rue de l'Athénée 4
1211 Geneva 12
Switzerland

Website: <http://www.isa-audiology.org>

2.(b) Contact information, name(s) and titles of officer(s) who may speak and correspond authoritatively on behalf of the organization

Professor George Tavartkiladze
Secretary General
123 Leninsky Avenue
Moscow 117513
Russian Federation

3. Aims (or purposes, objectives) of the organization as they appear in its constitution, by-laws or equivalent document. The main aim of the International Society of Audiology is to facilitate knowledge on, and the protection and rehabilitation of, human hearing. To that end it shall coordinate and disseminate information to and from its members and member societies; hold courses and regular international congresses; publish a journal and other written communications in the field of audiology; and serve as an advocate for all professionals in the field of audiology, and for people with hearing impairments throughout the world. In consultation with its members and member societies, the International Society shall, in order to enhance the profession, develop model guidelines on best practices in the provision of rehabilitation or habilitation and in identification and diagnosis; model guidelines for an audiological training curriculum and for continuing education in audiology; and model guidelines on ethics and professional conduct. It shall furthermore promote awards and prizes to honour members and non-members for achievements in audiology.

4. Main fields of work of the organization. Health care professionals (audiologists, otorhinolaryngologists, nurses, neonatologists, paediatricians, and speech therapists); health promotion/disease prevention; disabilities and health; occupational health; communicable diseases; and noncommunicable diseases.

5. Main types of activities of the organization.¹ Advocacy, conferences, education/training, journals/publications/media and standard-setting.

The organization has activities in the following countries: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, Turkey, United States of America.

6. Membership information.

Type of member	Total number	Voting status
Individuals	2578	2085
Nongovernmental national associations	30	1
Total	2608	2086

Members in the following countries and areas: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Regional offices/representatives in the following countries: Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, United States of America.

7. Name, composition, function and frequency of meetings of the main, or if applicable, the two main decision-making bodies.

Name: General Assembly

Composition: All full members and life members of the International Society.

Function: At each meeting, the General Assembly is informed of the work carried out by the Executive Committee and all other committees, and makes decisions in accordance with the International Society's statutes and rules. The General Assembly is responsible for: approval of any amendments to the statutes and rules; approval of the budget as presented by the Executive Committee; approval of venues for future conferences; approval of one of the three themes of each future conference; election of members-at-large to the Executive Committee; and, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee and in accordance with the rules, election of the President of the Executive Committee.

¹ For an explanation of the types of activities, please see the Annex to the application.

- Frequency of meetings: At least once every two years, during each ordinary congress of the International Society.
- Name: Executive Committee
- Composition: The Executive Committee comprises of at least seven and no more than 10 persons including the President, President-elect, immediate Past-President, Secretary General, Assistant Secretary General, and Member(s) at large. All Executive Committee members shall be members of the International Society.
- Function: The Executive Committee is responsible for the management of the International Society. It establishes and oversees all committees of the Society, in accordance with its rules. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Executive Committee may delegate authority to officers of the International Society for the management of specific tasks. The decisions of the Executive Committee are determined by a simple majority of the voting members. In the event of a tie vote, the tie breaking vote is cast by the President. The decisions made by the Executive Committee are recorded as minutes and signed by the President and the Secretary General. The minutes are kept at the head office of the Secretary General, with copies sent to the members of the Executive Committee.
- Frequency of meetings: At least during each ordinary congress of the International Society. Additional meetings may be called by the President or the Secretary General.

8. Human resources of the organization.

Number of paid staff at headquarters/secretariat:	2
Number of volunteer staff at headquarters/secretariat:	3
Number of paid staff worldwide (including staff at headquarters/secretariat):	2
Number of volunteers worldwide (including staff at headquarters/secretariat)	3

9. Financial information on the organization.¹

Annual income and expenditure in the range: US\$ 100 000 to US\$ 500 000

10. Formal relations with organizations and bodies in the United Nations system and nongovernmental organizations.

In formal relations with the International Federation of Otorhinolaryngological Societies.

¹ In order to facilitate comparison, nongovernmental organizations are requested to express their annual income and expenditure in United States dollar equivalents, and to provide estimates of these annual figures in cases where their accounts cover different periods.

11. Collaboration with WHO.

(a) Activities carried out jointly with WHO during the working relations period.

The International Society of Audiology has been actively and effectively contributing to WHO's work in the field of prevention of deafness and hearing loss since 1997. It has participated in the various meetings and consultations held by the Prevention of Blindness and Deafness unit, and has contributed to the development of WHO documents and guidelines.

During the past three years, the following collaborative activities have been carried out by the International Society of Audiology and WHO:

(i) The International Society has partnered with WHO to provide partial support for the position of Technical Officer for Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Loss at WHO headquarters. The cost of a position at grade P.5 has been supported since 2011 by a consortium of nongovernmental organizations, of which the International Society is a member.

(ii) The International Society has participated in the following technical meetings:

- Informal consultation to develop guiding principles for newborn and infant hearing screening, held at WHO headquarters, Geneva, in November 2009;
- Ad hoc consultation on hearing device technology transfer in low- and middle-income countries, held at WHO headquarters, Geneva, in March 2013;
- Regional workshop on strengthening and integrating the ear and hearing care programme within primary health care and health systems in the Eastern Mediterranean Region (Doha, 18–20 November 2013);
- Support for the Technical Officer at WHO headquarters to participate in the thirty-second World Congress of Audiology (Brisbane, Australia, May 2014).

(iii) The International Society has provided technical inputs for the following documents:

- WHO fact sheet on deafness and hearing loss;
- Preferred product profile for hearing aids in low- and middle-income countries (in preparation);
- Report on International Ear Care Day in 2013 and 2014.

(b) Planned collaborative activities with WHO for the coming three-year period.

The International Society of Audiology participated in the development of WHO's guidelines for hearing aids and services for developing countries in 2001 and the updated second edition in 2004. The guidelines were accepted by the International Society and were used by its humanitarian audiology committee as a reference for its work. The guidelines stress the need for training of human resources at all levels of the health system. Although descriptions of a model curriculum for university-level training in developed countries are available, there are no documents that outline the components of a training programme for community- and primary-level health care workers to provide

effective audiological services. A joint activity involving the International Society and WHO has been planned in order to achieve consensus on training models for people involved in audiological services worldwide. This activity, which includes the establishment of a joint committee of experts, the development of a curriculum framework and an initial draft of the curriculum content, is expected to be completed during 2015.

As in previous years, International Society members will continue to participate in all relevant upcoming WHO meetings as technical experts, including:

- A regional consultation on primary ear and hearing care in the South-East Asia Region, in 2015;
- An informal consultation on the development of national ear and hearing care plans.

The International Society will attend any other meetings, as required.

The International Society will provide input for the following planned technical documents:

- Make listening safe: a fact sheet on the risks related to recreational noise;
- A toolkit for promoting ear and hearing care in Member States.

The International Society will provide input for any other documents or materials, as required.

The Technical Officer for Prevention of Deafness and Hearing Loss position is presently funded by a consortium of nongovernmental organizations, of which the International Society is a member. In order to sustain the position, the Society will continue its support for the partial funding of the position for the next three years.

ANNEX

EXPLANATION OF TYPES OF ACTIVITIES

Advisory – the organization regularly advises governments, nongovernmental organizations and institutions, intergovernmental bodies, or the media on matters within its competence.

Advocacy – the organization regularly undertakes campaigns, or its main purpose is, to influence decision- or policy-makers, or individual or societal behaviours or attitudes.

Conferences – the organization regularly holds scientific conferences, or other forums, excluding governing body meetings.

Data collection/surveillance – the organization, for example, maintains a register of specific diseases, up-to-date data about the number of people in a particular profession, etc.

Education/training – the organization, or its members, regularly provides educational or training courses for individuals or organizations (governmental and nongovernmental), is an examining or licensing body, or develops curricula.

Funding/donations – the organization funds the work of others and/or donates goods to others, for example, hospital equipment and pharmaceuticals.

Journals/publications/media – the organization regularly publishes a peer-reviewed professional or scientific journal and/or regularly produces and revises books and other media, e.g. CDs and videos, and maintains a publications/resources catalogue.

Research – the organization undertakes commissions or funds research as a regular activity.

Service delivery – the organization provides, commissions or is contracted on a long-term basis to provide services to non-members, for example, child counselling/protection, hospital care, suicide prevention services and delivery of food aid.

Sponsoring – the organization maintains a sponsorship programme, for example, for children, the elderly or young scientists.

Standard-setting – the organization formulates standards, ranging from professional conduct to goods and services.

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