



# WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD  
117th Session  
Agenda item 8.1

EB117/24  
27 January 2006

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## Relations with nongovernmental organizations

### Report of the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations

1. In accordance with paragraphs 4.2 and 4.6 of the Principles governing relations between the World Health Organization and nongovernmental organizations,<sup>1</sup> the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations<sup>2</sup> met on 24 January 2006 to consider the relevant documents. The Board is invited to decide on the proposed draft resolution and decision set out in section III below.

#### **I. APPLICATIONS OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR ADMISSION INTO OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO** (Restricted documents EB117/NGO/1-3)

2. The Committee noted that its task was to evaluate the merits of each application and determine whether, in its view, the nongovernmental organizations met the criteria for admission into official relations as set out in paragraph 3 of the above-mentioned Principles. The Committee reviewed the applications<sup>3</sup> from The Transplantation Society (document EB117/NGO/1), The International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (document EB117/NGO/2) and the International Association for Biologicals (document EB117/NGO/3), and was satisfied that, based on the information provided, they met the criteria for admission into official relations. It was noted that the plans for collaboration would, respectively, contribute to the work of data gathering, training and the development of good practices relating to transplantation; encourage a science-based approach in professions working to combat the abuse of children, including a major activity to develop a framework for the prevention of abuse of children by parents and carers; and, finally, provide access to a scientific body whose work in the field of biological standardization has for many years supported WHO's work in this field. In view of this, the Committee agreed to recommend the admission into official relations of these three nongovernmental organizations.

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<sup>1</sup> Basic documents, 45th edition, Geneva, World Health Organization, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Members of the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations: Mr O.K. Shiraliyev (Azerbaijan), Dr J. Andrade Gaibor (Ecuador), Dr H.N.Acharya, Chairman (Nepal), Dr I.E.M. Abdulla (alternate to Dr T. Botros Shokai, Sudan), Mrs Le Thi Thu Ha (Viet Nam).

<sup>3</sup> Transmitted to the members of the Board under cover of a letter numbered L/05.33 dated 1 December 2005.

## **II. REVIEW OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO (Restricted document EB117/NGO/WP/1)**

3. The above-mentioned document contained information about collaboration, or the status of relations, between WHO and 76 nongovernmental organizations including, as appropriate, nongovernmental organizations referred to in decision EB115(3).<sup>1</sup> A list of their names appears in the Annex. The information was derived from reports submitted by the nongovernmental organizations and an evaluation by officers in the Secretariat responsible for the collaboration and relationship. The evaluation takes into consideration a requirement of the Principles (paragraph 4.5) that a “plan for collaboration based on mutually agreed objectives and outlining activities ... shall form the basis of official relations ...”.

4. The Annex to document EB117/NGO/WP/1 summarized collaboration reports and types of activity for 40 nongovernmental organizations. For the most part activities had taken place during the three years 2003-2005. Those names appear with an asterisk in the Annex to this report; where appropriate, the review period is indicated.

5. The Committee noted with appreciation the continuing commitment of the nongovernmental organizations to work with WHO and that collaboration was planned or expected to continue. In view of this, it agreed to recommend to the Board that the 40 nongovernmental organizations should be maintained in official relations and that the Board’s appreciation of their continuing contribution to the work of WHO should be conveyed to them.

6. The Committee then considered relations with the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics. Although a plan for collaboration covering the period did not materialize, WHO considered that the Association could play a valuable role in the development of its hearing aids initiative and, in view of this, proposed to contact the Association to explore the possibility of agreeing a plan for collaboration to revitalize relations. The Committee recommended that the situation should be noted, with the Association being maintained in official relations, and reviewed by the Board at its 119th session in January 2007.

7. Concerning relations with the International Federation of Oto-Rhino-Laryngological Societies, the Committee noted that joint activity had lapsed during the period under review. A workplan had, however, been agreed, which the Committee considered would serve as the basis of an official relationship. In view of the resumption of planned collaboration, the Committee recommended maintenance of official relations with WHO.

8. The Committee noted that the International Consultation on Urological Diseases reported several activities but that none had been undertaken with WHO. Furthermore, mutual interests appeared to have diverged and WHO did not envisage planned collaboration with the nongovernmental organization in the near future. The Committee decided, in view of the circumstances, to recommend that official relations should be discontinued.

9. In view of the report advising that the International Union of Local Authorities no longer existed, the Committee recommended that the Board should take note of this and discontinue official relations with the Union.

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB115/2005/REC/1, pp. 35-36.

10. The Committee reviewed the report of collaboration between the International Life Sciences Institute and WHO, as well as the Institute's response to the Board's decision EB111(6) at the time of its previous review. The decision, *inter alia*, noted information about the Institute, including links between its membership and funding from the commercial sector, including the tobacco industry, and indicated that its activities would be monitored.

11. In addition to providing information, the Institute asked WHO to distinguish between activities that were normative and those that were not. The Committee was informed that the Institute represented a knowledge resource base for the application of leading-edge science and knowledge transfer in the fields of food and chemical safety. The Institute would not, however, be involved in WHO's activities aimed at setting microbiological or chemical standards for food and water.

12. The Committee considered the information provided and, being assured that collaboration with the Institute is designed to harness its technical expertise while excluding collaboration on normative activities, decided to recommend that the Board note this and maintain the International Life Sciences Institute in official relations with WHO.

13. The Committee noted that several reports on collaboration either arrived too late or were outstanding, and decided to recommend that the review of relations with the following nongovernmental organizations should be deferred until the 119th session of the Board: International Association for Dental Research, International Association of Hydatid Disease, International Commission on Radiological Protection, International Federation for Housing and Planning, International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, International Society for Preventive Oncology, International Society of Doctors for the Environment, International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care, International Union against Cancer, International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, and the World Veterinary Association.

14. The Committee considered reports concerning the results of action requested in the Board's decision EB115(3).

15. In accordance with the third and fourth paragraphs of that decision, the reviews of relations with the International Federation of Fertility Societies, International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women and Soroptimist International had been deferred in order to explore the possibility of agreement on plans for collaboration. The Committee reviewed the plans for collaboration and decided to recommend that the Board should note with pleasure that efforts to resume planned collaboration had been successful and should maintain the nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO.

16. The fifth paragraph of the decision noted that a workplan had yet to be agreed and deferred the review of relations with Corporate Accountability International. In addition, a report on the state of relations and the conduct of its representatives at intergovernmental meetings was to be presented to the Committee.

17. The Committee noted the report of follow-up activities, and was informed that the Secretariat had recently received the relevant information from the Member State that originally drew attention to the matter. The Member State asserted that, during meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body on the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, the nongovernmental organization had tried to distort the Member State's position in order to mislead delegates from other countries, and had engaged in attacks against a member of its delegation in a newsletter. It also stated that the

nongovernmental organization had violated the privacy of a member of its delegation while he was on a private telephone call with his Government, which had led to the filing of a complaint with the Secretariat against the nongovernmental organization. The Member State questioned the appropriateness of maintaining official relations with the organization.

18. The Committee considered that, in order to be in a position to make a fully informed recommendation, it would be important to have the views of the nongovernmental organization on this matter. Consequently, the Committee recommends that Corporate Accountability International should be invited to present a written response to the allegations made by the Member State, and that the Board should defer the review of relations with Corporate Accountability International until its 119th session, due to be held in January 2007. If the Board were to decide to defer the review as recommended, the nongovernmental organization would be maintained in official relations with WHO during this period.

19. The Committee proceeded to consider reports from the nongovernmental organizations referred to in the sixth paragraph of decision EB115(3), whose review was deferred pending receipt of their reports of collaboration.

20. The International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities had informed WHO that resources had not become available to enable collaboration during the period under review. However, circumstances had changed and a plan for collaboration had been agreed. The Committee considered that the plan augured well for the resumption of joint activities and decided to recommend that the Association should be maintained in official relations with WHO.

21. The Committee considered relations with the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International). It noted that the Federation continued to advocate WHO's policies during the period under review, and that, as WHO had not been able to maintain continuity of contact, collaborative activities had not been possible. Circumstances had changed and both parties had agreed a workplan. The Committee noted that the plan showed promise of a productive relationship, and was pleased to recommend that the Federation should be maintained in official relations with WHO.

22. The Committee noted that collaboration appeared to have lapsed with the International Federation of Chemical, Mine, Energy and General Workers' Unions and that, for the near future, WHO did not envisage the resumption of planned collaboration. The Committee decided to recommend that official relations with the Federation should be discontinued.

23. Although the report from the World Organization of the Scout Movement referred to participation in WHO's meetings, there had been no jointly agreed activities during the period under review. In view of the fact that, in principle, both organizations were interested in revitalizing planned collaboration, the Committee recommended that, pending an agreement on a plan for collaboration, the review of relations with the Organization should be deferred until the Board's 119th session.

24. The Committee noted that reports from the following nongovernmental organizations remained outstanding: International Confederation of Midwives, International Federation of Sports Medicine, International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism, International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development, International Traffic Medicine Association and World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies. In view of this, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Board should defer the review of relations with these nongovernmental organizations for a further year and that they

should be informed that, should the reports not be forthcoming in time for consideration by the Board at its 119th session, official relations would be discontinued.

25. In accordance with the seventh paragraph of decision EB115(3), several nongovernmental organizations had been informed that, should the reports of their collaboration with WHO not be provided in time for consideration at the Board's 117th session, official relations would be discontinued. The Committee reviewed action taken in response to that decision.

26. According to the information provided, although collaboration with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry lapsed during the period under review (namely 2001-2003), planned collaboration had since resumed, and the Committee decided to recommend that the International Union should be maintained in official relations.

27. During the period 2001-2003 the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology had undertaken several initiatives and wished to maintain communication with WHO. The Secretariat appreciated being informed of the Federation's activities and was interested in pursuing contact with a view to exploring the potential for a plan for collaboration. The Committee recommended that the Federation's report should be noted and that, in view of the interest in pursuing a plan for collaboration, the review of relations with the Federation should be deferred until the 119th session of the Executive Board.

28. Lastly, the Committee noted that the Federation for International Cooperation of Health Services and Systems Research Centers and the International Society of Chemotherapy had also been informed of the conditions of decision EB115(3), seventh paragraph. There was no record of the organizations having responded. In view of the earlier decision of the Board, the Committee decided to recommend that the Board should discontinue official relations with these nongovernmental organizations.

### **III. PROPOSED DRAFT RESOLUTION AND DECISION**

#### **29. Draft resolution.**

The Executive Board,

Having examined the report of its Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations,<sup>1</sup>

1. DECIDES to admit into official relations with WHO The Transplantation Society, The International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, and the International Association for Biologicals;
2. DECIDES to discontinue official relations with the following nongovernmental organizations: Federation for International Cooperation of Health Services and Systems Research Centers, International Consultation on Urological Diseases, International Federation

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB117/24.

of Chemical, Mine, Energy and General Workers' Unions, International Society of Chemotherapy, and the International Union of Local Authorities.

30. **Draft decision on the review of nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO.**

The Executive Board, having considered and noted the report of its Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations concerning the review of one third of the nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO,<sup>1</sup> and follow up to decision EB115(3), reached the decisions set out below.

Noting with satisfaction the continuing collaboration between WHO and the nongovernmental organizations whose names are followed by an asterisk in the Annex to the report, and that that collaboration is planned or expected to continue, the Board decided to maintain their official relations with WHO.

Noting that plans for collaboration between WHO and the International Federation of Oto-Rhino-Laryngological Societies, International Federation of Fertility Societies, International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, Soroptimist International, International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities, and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International) and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry had been agreed upon, decided to maintain their official relations with WHO.

Noting that, although during the period under review, planned collaboration had lapsed between WHO and the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatics, World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology, and the World Organization of the Scout Movement, the parties intended to explore the possibility of resuming collaboration on the basis of mutually agreed plans, the Board decided to defer a decision on the review of relations with these nongovernmental organizations until its 119th session.

With regard to relations with Corporate Accountability International, the Board decided to invite the organization to comment in writing on information that had been conveyed by a Member State, and to defer consideration of its relations with WHO and the report on the conduct of representatives of the organization at intergovernmental meetings, until its 119th session.

Noting the information provided concerning the International Life Sciences Institute, the Board decided to maintain the Institute in official relations with WHO.

In the absence, or late arrival, of reports on collaboration, the Board decided to defer review of relations with the following nongovernmental organizations until its 119th session: International Association for Dental Research, International Association of Hydatid Disease, International Commission on Radiological Protection, International Federation for Housing and Planning, International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, International Society for Preventive Oncology, International Society of Doctors for the Environment, International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care, International Union against Cancer, International Union

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB117/24.

against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, and the World Veterinary Association.

Noting that reports of collaboration remain outstanding from the following nongovernmental organizations: International Confederation of Midwives, International Federation of Sports Medicine, International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism, International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development, International Traffic Medicine Association and World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies, the Board decided to defer the review of relations with them for a further year, and to inform them that, if the reports were not provided in time for consideration at its 119th session, official relations would be discontinued.

ANNEX

**LIST OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS  
WITH WHO REVIEWED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS 117TH SESSION**

Association of the Institutes and Schools of Tropical Medicine in Europe\*  
Christoffel-Blindenmission\*  
Corporate Accountability International  
CropLife International\*  
Cystic Fibrosis Worldwide, Inc.\*  
European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals\*  
FDI World Dental Federation\*  
Federation for International Cooperation of Health Services and Systems Research Centers  
German Pharma Health Fund e.V.\*  
Helen Keller International\*  
Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering\*  
International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness\*  
International Air Transport Association\*  
International Alliance of Women  
International Association for Dental Research  
International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities  
International Association for the Study of Pain\*  
International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations\*  
International Association of Hydatid Disease  
International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatics  
International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Monitoring Systems\*  
International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection\*  
International Commission on Radiological Protection  
International Confederation of Midwives  
International Consultation on Urological Diseases  
International Council of Women  
International Diabetes Federation\*  
International Eye Foundation, Inc.\*  
International Federation for Housing and Planning  
International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International)  
International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions  
International Federation of Fertility Societies  
International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies\*  
International Federation of Oto-Rhino-Laryngological Societies  
International Federation of Sports Medicine  
International Leprosy Association\*  
International Life Sciences Institute  
International Organization against Trachoma\*  
International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism  
International Society for Environmental Epidemiology  
International Society for Preventive Oncology  
International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development  
International Society of Chemotherapy  
International Society of Doctors for the Environment



International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care  
 International Traffic Medicine Association  
 International Union against Cancer  
 International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections\*  
 International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease  
 International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources  
 International Union for Health Promotion and Education\*<sup>1</sup>  
 International Union of Local Authorities  
 International Union of Psychological Science\*<sup>1</sup>  
 International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry  
 International Union of Toxicology\*  
 International Water Association\*  
 Islamic Organization for Medical Sciences\*  
 March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation\*  
 Medical Women's International Association\*<sup>1</sup>  
 Organisation pour la Prévention de la Cécité\*  
 Project ORBIS International, Inc. (ORBIS International)\*  
 Rehabilitation International\*<sup>1</sup>  
 Rotary International\*  
 Soroptimist International  
 Thalassaemia International Federation\*  
 The International Association of Lions Clubs\*  
 The Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind (Sight Savers International)\*  
 World Blind Union\*  
 World Federation of Hemophilia\*  
 World Federation of Hydrotherapy and Climatotherapy\*  
 World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies  
 World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology  
 World Heart Federation\*  
 World Hypertension League\*  
 World Organization of the Scout Movement  
 World Veterinary Association

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\* Based on reports of joint collaboration for the period under review, the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations recommended the maintenance of official relations of those nongovernmental organizations whose names are followed by an asterisk; other nongovernmental organizations are the subject of specific decisions or a resolution.

<sup>1</sup> Activities concern the period 2002-2004.