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## **Reports of committees of the Executive Board**

### **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 23 January 2007. In addition to considering applications from nongovernmental organizations for admission into official relations with WHO, and reviewing collaboration with nongovernmental organizations already in official relations, the Committee considered a recommendation from the Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property.<sup>3</sup> The Board is invited to consider the proposed draft resolution and decisions set out in section IV below.

#### **I. APPLICATIONS OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR ADMISSION INTO OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO** (Restricted documents EB120/NGO/1-7)

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 paragraphs 3.1 to 3.6 of the above-mentioned Principles. Applications<sup>4</sup> from the following nongovernmental organizations were considered: World Plumbing Council, The International Society for Quality in Health Care Incorporated, World Association for Sexual Health, The International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations, International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities, International Alliance of Patients' Organizations, and EuroSafe – European Association for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion.<sup>5</sup> Based on the information provided, the Committee was satisfied that these nongovernmental organizations met the criteria for admission into official relations and agreed to recommend their admission into official relations with WHO.

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

<sup>2</sup> Members of the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental organizations: Mr O. Shiraliyev (Azerbaijan), Dr P.M. Buss (Brazil), Dr Xing Jun (alternate to Dr Qi Quingdong, China), Dr M.P. Rahantanirina (Madagascar), Dr Suwit Wibulpolprasert, Chairman (Thailand).

<sup>3</sup> Document EB120/35 Add.1, paragraph 11.

<sup>4</sup> Transmitted to the members of the Board under cover of a letter numbered L/06.24, dated 20 November 2006.

<sup>5</sup> Respectively, documents EB120/NGO/1, EB120/NGO/2, EB120/NGO/3, EB120/NGO/4, EB120/NGO/5, EB120/NGO/6 and EB120/NGO/7.

## II. REVIEW OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO (Restricted document EB120/NGO/WP/1)

3. The Committee considered reports concerning relations with 80 nongovernmental organizations, including nongovernmental organizations referred to in decision EB117(3).<sup>1</sup> A list of their names appears in the Annex to this document. It was noted that the information derived from reports submitted by the nongovernmental organizations, together with an evaluation made by officers in the Secretariat with responsibility for the collaboration or, where appropriate, the relationship. The evaluation takes into consideration the fact that, in accordance with paragraph 4.5 of the Principles, “plan for collaboration based on mutually agreed objectives and outlining activities ... shall form the basis of official relations ...”.

4. The Committee reviewed collaboration between WHO and 49 of the nongovernmental organizations listed in the Annex (including the World Medical Association, for which supplementary information on collaboration had been provided by the Secretariat). The Committee noted the nongovernmental organizations’ continuing commitment to working with WHO and that collaboration was planned or expected to continue. The Committee was pleased to recommend that the Board should commend the continuing dedication of these nongovernmental organizations to the work of WHO and should maintain them in official relations.

5. The Committee was unable to review relations with several nongovernmental organizations because the reports on collaboration had not been received, had been received too late, or because further information was required. The following nongovernmental organizations were concerned: Aga Khan Foundation, Commonwealth Medical Association, International Association of Cancer Registries, International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-social Assistants, International League of Dermatological Societies, International Conference of Deans of French-Language Faculties of Medicine, International Epidemiological Association, International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science, International Federation of Medical Students Associations, International Medical Informatics Association, International Society for Burn Injuries, International Society of Hematology, International Union of Microbiological Societies, OXFAM, World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology, and World Vision International. In view of this, the Committee recommended that the Board should defer the review of relations with the nongovernmental organizations for consideration by the Executive Board at its 122nd session.

6. The Committee then considered reports concerning the results of action requested in the Board’s decision EB117(3).

7. In accordance with the fourth paragraph of that decision, a decision on the review of relations with the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics, World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology, and the World Organization of the Scout Movement had been deferred to give the parties time to explore the possibility of resuming collaboration on the basis of mutually agreed plans.

8. The Committee was pleased to note the agreed plan for collaboration between WHO and the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics and recommended that the Board should maintain the Association in official relations with WHO.

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB117/2006/REC/1.

9. According to the information provided, discussions were ongoing with the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology and the World Organization of the Scout Movement, and the parties remained hopeful of agreement on plans for collaboration. The Committee recommended that the Board should defer the review of relations with those nongovernmental organizations for an additional year and requested that a report on the results of efforts to agree collaboration plans should be presented to the Executive Board at its 122nd session.

10. In accordance with decision EB117(3), Corporate Accountability International had been invited to comment on information provided by a Member State conveying its views on the nongovernmental organization's conduct during sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body on the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. In light of the information submitted and the clarification provided by the Secretariat, the Committee recommended that the Board should note the information and decide to maintain Corporate Accountability International in official relations with WHO. When writing to the nongovernmental organization to inform it of the Board's decision, the Secretariat was asked to mention the importance of conduct that is consistent with the privileges accorded to nongovernmental organizations in official relations.

11. According to the information provided, reports from a number of nongovernmental organizations referred to in the seventh paragraph of the decision remained outstanding; three of the nongovernmental organizations had, however, indicated their intention to provide a report. In view of the absence of the reports, it was decided to recommend that the Board should defer for a further year the review of relations with the International Commission on Radiological Protection, International Federation for Housing and Planning, International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, International Society for Preventive Oncology, and the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care, and request they should be informed that, should a response not be forthcoming in time for consideration by the Executive Board at its 122nd session, official relations would be discontinued.

12. With regard to the report from the World Veterinary Association, the Committee noted that, although collaboration had lapsed during the period under review, a plan for collaboration had been agreed. The Committee recommended that the Board should note the plan and maintain the nongovernmental organization in official relations with WHO.

13. In accordance with the eighth paragraph of decision EB117(3), a number of nongovernmental organizations had been invited to submit their reports on collaboration, which concerned the period 2002–2004; they had also been informed that should the reports not be provided, official relations would be discontinued.

14. The Committee noted that collaboration had lapsed between WHO and the International Federation of Sports Medicine and the International Traffic Medicine Association and that planned collaboration was not expected in the immediate future. In addition, the Federation had indicated its preference that relations should be "inactivated". In view of this, the Committee recommended that official relations should be discontinued with both nongovernmental organizations.

15. In considering relations with the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism, the Committee was informed that, subsequent to finalization of the review contained in document EB120/NGO/WP/1, the newly elected Board of the Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism had written to the Director-General, indicating that the Society had begun negotiations with WHO for agreement on a workplan and had requested that special consideration should be given to maintaining them in official relations with WHO. Taking into consideration the expertise that such a nongovernmental organization could offer WHO, and recalling resolution WHA58.26 on public health problems caused by harmful use of alcohol, the Committee recommended that the Board should note

the Society's request and maintain the Society in official relations for a further year in order to give the parties time to agree a plan for collaboration for review by the Board at its 122nd session.

16. In its discussions on relations with the International Confederation of Midwives, the Committee expressed concern about the idea of discontinuing relations. The Committee drew attention to the importance of the profession and the Confederation's potential to become a valuable partner for WHO. Furthermore, it was recalled that the Director-General had expressed the intention to focus on the health of women. Nonetheless, it was troubling that since 2004 the Confederation had apparently not responded to invitations to submit reports. The Committee proposed that the Board should maintain the nongovernmental organization in official relations for a further year, on the condition that the Confederation would, within three months of being informed of the Executive Board's decision, confirm its intention to submit a report for consideration by the Executive Board at its 122nd session. The Committee recommended that official relations should be discontinued if such confirmation was not received within the three-month period.

17. Due to the continuing absence of a report from the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development, the Committee was unable to review relations. For that reason, and taking into consideration decision EB117(3), the Committee recommended that official relations with the Society should be discontinued.

### **III. PARTICIPATION OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON PUBLIC HEALTH, INNOVATION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY** (Restricted document EB120/NGO/WP/2)

18. The Committee noted that the above-mentioned document had been prepared for its consideration in accordance with a recommendation contained in the Secretariat's report on the outcome of the first session of the Working Group.<sup>1</sup> The Secretariat provided additional information indicating that many nongovernmental organizations had expressed an interest in participating in the session, and that the Working Group itself wished to facilitate such participation. The Committee was also guided by the decision adopted by the Board in respect of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body on the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.<sup>2</sup> The Committee therefore agreed to recommend, under the conditions set out in the draft decision in section IV below, that the Board should authorize the Chairman of the Executive Board, acting jointly with the Chairman of the Standing Committee on nongovernmental organizations, to admit provisionally nongovernmental organizations into official relations with WHO.

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<sup>1</sup> See document EB120/35 Add.1, paragraph 11.

<sup>2</sup> See decision EB107(2).

#### **IV. PROPOSED DRAFT RESOLUTION AND DECISIONS**

##### **19. 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 World Plumbing Council, The International Society for Quality in Health Care Incorporated, World Association for Sexual Health, The International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations, International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities, International Alliance of Patients' Organizations, and EuroSafe – European Association for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion.

2. DECIDES to discontinue official relations with the following nongovernmental organizations: International Federation of Sports Medicine, International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development and the International Traffic Medicine Association.

##### **20. 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 EB117(3), reached the decisions set out below.

Commending the continuing dedication to the work of WHO, the nongovernmental organizations whose names are followed by an asterisk in the Annex to the report, the Board decided to maintain those nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO.

Noting that reports had not been received, had been received too late, or that further information was required, the Board decided to defer until its 122nd session the review of relations with the following nongovernmental organizations: Aga Khan Foundation, Commonwealth Medical Association, International Association of Cancer Registries, International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-social Assistants, International League of Dermatological Societies, International Conference of Deans of French-Language Faculties of Medicine, International Epidemiological Association, International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science, International Federation of Medical Students Associations, International Medical Informatics Association, International Society for Burn Injuries, International Society of Hematology, International Union of Microbiological Societies, OXFAM, World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology, and World Vision International.

Noting that plans for collaboration between WHO and the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatics, and the World Veterinary Association, had been agreed, the Board decided to maintain these nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO.

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB120/41.

Noting the continuing expectation that plans for collaboration between WHO and the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology, and the World Organization of the Scout Movement, would be agreed, the Board decided to defer the review of relations with these nongovernmental organizations until its 122nd session.

Noting the information from Corporate Accountability International, the Board decided to maintain the nongovernmental organization in official relations with WHO and requested the Secretariat, when informing the nongovernmental organization of this decision, to mention the importance of conduct that is consistent with the privileges accorded to nongovernmental organizations in official relations.

Noting that reports of collaboration remained outstanding from the following nongovernmental organizations: the International Commission on Radiological Protection, International Federation for Housing and Planning, International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, International Society for Preventive Oncology, and the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care, the Board decided to defer the review of their relations with WHO for a further year and requested that the nongovernmental organizations should be informed that, should the reports not be forthcoming for consideration by the Executive Board at its 122nd session, their official relations would be discontinued.

Noting the information provided by the International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism concerning efforts to resume planned collaboration with WHO, and taking into consideration the nongovernmental organization's request for the continuance of official relations, the Board decided to maintain the Society in official relations for a further year to allow time for the parties to agree a plan for collaboration for review by the Board at its 122nd session.

The Board decided to maintain the International Confederation of Midwives in official relations for a further year on the condition that the Confederation would, within three months of being informed of this decision, confirm its intention to submit a report for consideration by the Executive Board at its 122nd session. If such confirmation was not received within the three-month period, official relations would be discontinued.

**21. Draft decision on measures to facilitate the participation of nongovernmental organizations in the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property**

The Executive Board, having considered the recommendation of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property<sup>1</sup> and the report of its Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations, authorized the Chairman of the Executive Board, acting jointly with the Chairman of the Standing Committee, to admit provisionally nongovernmental organizations into official relations with WHO. The facility established by the present decision will apply to nongovernmental organizations that request official relations solely or also for the purpose of participating in the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property, subject to the following conditions and requirements:

- (1) nongovernmental organizations must be in working relations with WHO at the time of submission of their application, so that approximately two years of working relations will have

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<sup>1</sup> Contained in document EB120/35 Add.1, Section F.

elapsed by the time the Executive Board formally reviews their applications under point (3) below, and must otherwise meet the criteria established in section 3 of the Principles Governing Relations between the World Health Organization and Nongovernmental Organizations;

(2) the mandates of the nongovernmental organizations concerned must be relevant to the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group;

(3) the Executive Board will review nongovernmental organizations in provisional official relations at its January session subsequent to their admission into provisional official relations, for the purpose of confirming or terminating such relations in accordance with normal procedures.

This decision will remain applicable, unless terminated or revised by the Board, until the completion of the work of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property.

ANNEX

**LIST OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS  
WITH WHO REVIEWED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS 120TH SESSION**

African Medical and Research Foundation\*  
Aga Khan Foundation  
CMC – Churches' Action for Health\*  
Commonwealth Medical Association  
Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association\*  
Consumers International\*<sup>1</sup>  
Corporate Accountability International  
Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences\*  
Council on Health Research for Development\*  
Global Forum for Health Research\*  
Global Health Council\*  
International Association for Dental Research\*<sup>2</sup>  
International Association of Biologists Technicians\*  
International Association of Cancer Registries  
International Association of Hydatid Disease\*<sup>2</sup>  
International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics  
International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-social Assistants  
International College of Surgeons\*  
International Commission on Radiological Protection  
International Confederation of Midwives  
International Conference of Deans of French-Language Faculties of Medicine  
International Council for Standardization in Haematology\*  
International Council of Nurses\*  
International Epidemiological Association  
International Federation for Housing and Planning  
International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering\*  
International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science  
International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine\*  
International Federation of Health Records Organizations\*  
International Federation of Hospital Engineering\*  
International Federation of Medical Students Associations  
International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations\*<sup>3</sup>  
International Federation of Sports Medicine  
International Federation of Surgical Colleges\*  
International Hospital Federation\*  
International League of Dermatological Societies  
International Medical Informatics Association  
International Medical Parliamentarians Organization\*  
International Organization for Standardization\*  
International Pharmaceutical Federation\*  
International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation\*  
International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism  
International Society for Burn Injuries  
International Society for Environmental Epidemiology



International Society for Preventive Oncology  
 International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development  
 International Society of Blood Transfusion\*  
 International Society of Doctors for the Environment\*<sup>2</sup>  
 International Society of Hematology  
 International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care  
 International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology\*  
 International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists\*  
 International Society of Radiology\*  
 International Traffic Medicine Association  
 International Union against Cancer\*<sup>2</sup>  
 International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease\*<sup>2</sup>  
 International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources\*<sup>2</sup>  
 International Union of Architects\*  
 International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology\*<sup>4</sup>  
 International Union of Microbiological Societies  
 Medicus Mundi International–International Organisation for Cooperation in Health Care\*  
 OXFAM  
 The International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis, Inc.\*  
 The Network: Towards Unity For Health\*  
 The Save the Children Fund\*  
 The World Federation of Acupuncture–Moxibustion Societies\*  
 World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine\*  
 World Federation for Medical Education\*  
 World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology  
 World Federation of Chiropractic\*  
 World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies\*<sup>5</sup>  
 World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology  
 World Federation of Public Health Associations\*  
 World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists\*  
 World Medical Association\*  
 World Organization of Family Doctors\*  
 World Organization of the Scout Movement  
 World Self-Medication Industry\*  
 World Veterinary Association  
 World Vision International

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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> Previously known as International Organisation of Consumers Unions (Consumers International).

<sup>2</sup> Activities concern the period 2003–2005.

<sup>3</sup> Previously known as International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations.

<sup>4</sup> Previously known as International Union of Pharmacology.

<sup>5</sup> Activities concern the period 2002–2004.