

Reports of committees of the Executive Board

Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations

1. In accordance with the Principles governing relations between the World Health Organization and nongovernmental organizations,¹ the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations² met on 21 January 2014. The Board is invited to consider the proposed draft resolution and decision set out in paragraphs 27 and 28 below.

I. APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION INTO OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO (Restricted documents EB134/NGO/1–8)³

2. The Committee considered applications for admission into official relations from the Health on the Net Foundation, the International Council for Commonality in Blood Banking Automation Inc., IntraHealth International Inc., the Medicines Patent Pool, the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, the International Psycho-Oncology Society, and the International Baby Food Action Network.⁴ The Committee evaluated the merits of each applicant in order to determine whether, in its view, the nongovernmental organizations met the criteria for admission into official relations as set out under paragraph 3 of the above-mentioned Principles.

3. The Secretariat provided supplementary information for each application. In some cases additional clarification and reassurances were sought. With respect to the application from the Health on the Net Foundation, the Committee sought information on whether there were other nongovernmental organizations that worked in the same field. It was clarified that there were similar nongovernmental organizations at national levels but that the Foundation was the only nongovernmental organization that worked at the global level in the provision of high-quality medical information.

4. With respect to the application from the Medicines Patent Pool, and in response to a question on the source of its financing, the Committee was assured that initial funding came mostly from the International Drug Purchase Facility (UNITAID), which had established it.

¹ Basic documents, 47th ed., Geneva: World Health Organization; 2009.

² Dr W. Ammar (Lebanon) (Chairman), Dr R. Nchabi Kamwi (Namibia), Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah (Malaysia), Dr Pe Thet Khin (Myanmar), and Dr Z. Valverde (Panama).

³ Transmitted to Executive Board members under cover of a letter dated 20 December 2013 and numbered L/13.20.

⁴ Restricted documents EB134/NGO/1, EB134/NGO/2, EB134/NGO/3, EB134/NGO/4, EB134/NGO/5, EB134/NGO/6, EB134/NGO/7 and EB134/NGO/8 respectively.

5. In considering the application from the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative, the Committee member from Malaysia informed the Committee that he was a member of its Board of Directors and therefore would have a conflict of interest in considering its application. He excused himself from the meeting for the duration of the consideration of the application.

6. With respect to the application from the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, it was clarified to the Committee that it had few African countries as members because in Africa less attention was given to infertility. However, the Society had developed a strong outreach in Africa.

7. In considering the application from the International Psycho-Oncology Society, the Committee was assured that the Society had a subspecialty on paediatric oncology and was planning additional activities to support parents of children with cancer.

8. With respect to the application from the International Baby Food Action Network, the Committee was assured that the Network had no conflict of interest in relation to the private sector, especially breast-milk substitute manufacturers, and that its strength was in disseminating WHO's policies on infant and young child feeding.

9. Based on the information provided, the Committee concluded that the Health on the Net Foundation, the International Council for Commonality in Blood Banking Automation Inc., IntraHealth International Inc., the Medicines Patent Pool, the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, the International Psycho-Oncology Society, and the International Baby Food Action Network, met the criteria for admission into official relations and recommended that they be admitted into official relations with WHO.

II. CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION INTO OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO (Restricted documents EB134/NGO/9 and EB134/NGO/9 Add.1)

10. The Committee considered the application for admission into official relations from the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, which had been postponed by the Executive Board at its 132nd session to be considered at its 134th session, along with additional information that had been requested by the Executive Board concerning the nature and extent of the links between the Global Alliance and the global food industry, and the position of the Global Alliance with regard to its support and advocacy of WHO's nutrition policies, including those on infant feeding and the marketing of complementary foods.

11. With regard to the links between the Global Alliance and the private sector, it was clarified that 99% of the Global Alliance's funding came from public donors, not-for-profit organizations and foundations. The Global Alliance did not accept core or unrestricted funding from the private sector. The remaining 1% of funding, which comes mainly from the private sector, was used to leverage companies' technical expertise and to conduct research. The Global Alliance's main links with the private sector were with national and local companies in order to enable them to make more affordable and nutritious foods, as part of government-led national fortification alliances. Furthermore, seats on the Board of Directors were no longer reserved by constituencies, hence none were reserved for the private sector.

12. The Global Alliance's Business Alliance, whose purpose was to encourage international companies to develop better nutrition policies and to engage them in discussions on nutrition and food systems, was closed in December 2013. Concern was raised that this closure took place only very

recently. Its activities have been replaced by the Global Alliance and WFP co-chairing the Scaling Up Nutrition movement's Business Network, which aims to engage the private sector in the long-term achievement of nutrition and food security.

13. In relation to the Global Alliance's support and advocacy of WHO's policies on nutrition, including those on infant feeding and the marketing of complementary foods, it was clarified that the Alliance subscribed to WHO's infant and young child nutrition policies, and supported the implementation of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes and subsequent related Health Assembly resolutions.

14. Based on the information provided by the Secretariat and the clarifications of the Secretariat to the Committee's various questions, the Committee did not find any reason to object to the admission of the Global Alliance into official relations with WHO, especially after they received confirmation of the closure of the Global Alliance's Business Alliance. However, the Committee decided to report to the Board its concern regarding the very recent closure of the Business Alliance.

III. REVIEW OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO (Restricted document EB134/NGO/WP/1)

15. The Committee considered reports on relations with 73 nongovernmental organizations listed in the Annex to this document. The reports combined information submitted by the nongovernmental organizations and the Secretariat's evaluations. Such an evaluation takes into consideration the fact that, in accordance with paragraph 4.5 of the Principles, "A plan for collaboration based on mutually agreed objectives and outlining activities ... shall form the basis of official relations ...".

16. The Committee reviewed reports on collaboration during the period 2011–2013 between WHO and 57 nongovernmental organizations and recommended that the Board commend the continuing contributions of those nongovernmental organizations to the achievement of WHO's objectives, and maintain them in official relations with WHO. Their names are indicated in the Annex by an asterisk.

17. The Committee proceeded to review individual reports concerning relations with organizations with which relations had changed during the period under review.

18. The Committee then considered reports from the International Union for Health Promotion and Education, the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices affecting the Health of Women and Children, and the World Psychiatric Association. For a variety of reasons, set out in restricted document EB134/NGO/WP/1, collaboration with the organizations during 2011–2013 had apparently lapsed. In all cases it was expected that collaboration based on mutually agreed three-year plans for collaboration could be resumed. The Committee was pleased to learn of this and decided, in order to encourage the successful conclusion to discussions concerning plans for collaboration, to recommend the deferral of the review of relations with these nongovernmental organizations until the 136th session of the Executive Board, at which time reports should be presented to the Board either on the agreed plans for collaboration or on the status of relations.

19. In the case of Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum, the Committee noted that the Collegium was no longer engaged in joint activities or collaboration with WHO. In considering the official relations with the Industry Council for Development, the Committee noted that the Council had been dissolved at the end of 2013 and hence had not submitted plans for collaboration. The Committee considered the reports and recommended that official relations be discontinued with Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum and the Industry Council for Development.

20. The report concerning relations with International Special Dietary Foods Industries was considered. The organization had reported inadequate progress in the implementation of the plan of collaboration. WHO had not received the deliverables expected during the collaboration period. In view of this, the Committee agreed to recommend that official relations be discontinued with International Special Dietary Foods Industries.

21. The Committee then considered the follow-up to the Board's decision EB132(9), which, *inter alia*, had deferred, pending agreement on plans for collaboration or a report of the status of the relations, the review of relations with the Global Health Council, Inc., the Council on Health Research for Development, the Global Forum for Health Research, CMC – Churches' Action for Health, the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants, the International Federation of Hospital Engineering, the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association, the International Medical Parliamentarians Organization, the International Conference of Deans of French-Language Faculties of Medicine and OXFAM.

22. With regard to Global Health Council, Inc., the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants, the International Federation of Hospital Engineering, the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association and OXFAM, the Committee reviewed the reports and was satisfied that the agreed plans for collaboration had been developed. The Committee agreed to recommend to the Board that the nongovernmental organizations be maintained in official relations with WHO.

23. With regard to the Council on Health Research for Development and the Global Forum for Health Research, the two organizations had integrated their operations while both maintaining their own governing bodies. This had created uncertainty as to which functions each organization would manage, especially regarding relations with WHO. With a view to clarifying the status of each organization's relationship with WHO, the Executive Board, at its 132nd session, had decided to defer the review of relations of the organizations until its 134th session and had requested that each organization's governing body clarify its wishes with regard to an official relationship. The Committee was pleased to learn that in addition to the activities, the organizational assets had also been merged, and the two organizations would operate as one single organization: the Council on Health Research for Development. The Global Forum for Health Research therefore no longer existed as an independent organization. The Committee also noted that an agreed plan for collaboration had been developed. Based on that information, the Committee recommends that the Council on Health Research be maintained in official relations with WHO and that official relations be discontinued with the Global Forum for Health Research.

24. The report concerning relations with CMC – Churches' Action for Health was considered. In response to the request by the Executive Board at its 132nd session¹ that a report be submitted on the status of the organization's relations with WHO, and, in particular, on its constitutional arrangements, the Committee concluded that CMC – Churches' Action for Health had yet to provide clarification concerning its constitutional document or documents. The World Council of Churches had informed the Secretariat that they were undergoing organizational restructuring, including the status of CMC – Churches' Action for Health as part of the Council. The Committee recommended that the report be noted, that the review of relations with CMC – Churches' Action for Health be deferred for a second time in order to allow the organization more time to finalize its reorganization, and that a request be made for an agreed plan for collaboration with WHO and, in particular, the organization's constitutional arrangements, be submitted for consideration by the Board at its 136th session.

¹ See decision EB132(9).

25. With regard to efforts to reach agreement on a plan for collaboration with the International Medical Parliamentarians Organization and the International Conference of Deans of French-Language Faculties of Medicine, the Committee noted that both organizations had been contacted by WHO in 2013 with a request to develop a plan for collaboration. No response from either organization had been received, and it appeared that collaboration had ceased. The Committee recommends that official relations be discontinued with the International Medical Parliamentarians Organization and the International Conference of Deans of French-Language Faculties of Medicine.

26. The Committee looks forward to the implementation of the framework of engagement with non-State actors, particularly in relation to granting public access to documentation submitted to the Board's Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations, which would increase transparency, allow for whistle-blowing, and facilitate the future work of the Standing Committee.

IV. PROPOSED DRAFT RESOLUTION AND DECISION

27. Draft resolution

The Executive Board,

Having examined the report of its Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations,¹

1. DECIDES to admit into official relations with WHO the following nongovernmental organizations: the Health on the Net Foundation, the International Council for Commonality in Blood Banking Automation Inc., IntraHealth International Inc., the Medicines Patent Pool, the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, the International Psycho-Oncology Society, and the International Baby Food Action Network;

2. DECIDES to admit into official relations with WHO the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition after satisfactory consideration of the information concerning the nature and extent of the links between the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition and the global food industry, after confirmation of the closure of its Business Alliance, and the position of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition with regard to its support and advocacy of WHO's nutritional policies, including those on infant feeding and the marketing of complementary foods;

3. DECIDES to discontinue official relations with Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum, the Industry Council for Development, International Special Dietary Foods Industries, the Global Forum for Health Research, the International Medical Parliamentarians Organization and the International Conference of Deans of French-Language Faculties of Medicine.

28. 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 Organizations¹ concerning the review of one third of the nongovernmental

¹ Document EB134/44.

organizations in official relations with WHO, and follow-up to decision EB132(9), reached the decisions set out below.

Noting with appreciation their collaboration with WHO and commending the continuing dedication to the work of WHO, the Board decided to maintain in official relations with WHO the nongovernmental organizations whose names are followed by an asterisk in the Annex to the report.

Noting the report, the Board decided to defer the review of relations with the International Union for Health Promotion and Education, the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices affecting the Health of Women and Children, and the World Psychiatric Association until its 136th session and, at which time reports, either on agreed plans for collaboration or status of relations, would be considered.

Noting the report, the Board decided to defer for a second time the review of relations with CMC – Churches' Action for Health until its 136th session and to request further clarification on its constitutional arrangements and an agreed plan for collaboration with WHO.

Noting the report that the Council on Health Research for Development and the Global Forum for Health Research had been merged and operated as one single organization: the Council on Health Research for Development, and that plans for collaboration had been agreed, the Board decided to maintain the Council on Health Research for Development in official relations with WHO.

Noting that plans for collaboration had been agreed, the Board decided to maintain Global Health Council, Inc., the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants, the International Federation of Hospital Engineering, the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association, and OXFAM in official relations with WHO.

ANNEX

**LIST OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS
WITH WHO REVIEWED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS 134TH SESSION**

Alzheimer's Disease International*
CMC – Churches' Action for Health
Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum
Corporate Accountability International*
Council on Health Research for Development
European Generic medicines Association*
Family Health International*
Global Forum for Health Research
Global Health Council Inc.
Global Initiative on Psychiatry*
Handicap International Federation*
HelpAge International*
Inclusion International*
Industry Council for Development
Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices affecting the Health of Women and Children
International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and Allied Professions*
International Association for Suicide Prevention*
International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities*
International Association of Hydatid Disease*
International Bureau for Epilepsy*
International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants
International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development*
International Commission on Occupational Health*
International Committee for Monitoring Assisted Reproductive Technologies*
International Confederation of Midwives*
International Conference of Deans of French-Language Faculties of Medicine
International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders*
International Ergonomics Association*
International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International)*
International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics*
International Federation of Hospital Engineering
International Federation on Ageing*
International Insulin Foundation*
International Lactation Consultant Association*
International League Against Epilepsy*
International Medical Parliamentarians Organization
International Network of Women Against Tobacco*
International Occupational Hygiene Association*
International Pediatric Association*
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War*
International Planned Parenthood Federation*
International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism*
International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics*
International Society of Andrology*

International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine*
International Special Dietary Foods Industries
International Spinal Cord Society*
International Union for Health Promotion and Education
International Union of Nutritional Sciences*
International Union of Psychological Science*
International Women's Health Coalition Inc.*
Italian Association of Friends of Raoul Follereau*
Lifting The Burden*
Medical Women's International Association*
MSF International*
Multiple Sclerosis International Federation*
OXFAM
Rehabilitation International*
Stichting Health Action International*
The Commonwealth Pharmacists Association
The International Alliance of Women: Equal Rights-Equal Responsibilities*
The International Association for the Study of Obesity*
The International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect*
The Population Council, Inc.*
World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation*
World Association for Sexual Health*
World Confederation for Physical Therapy*
World Federation for Mental Health*
World Federation of Neurology*
World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies*
World Federation of Occupational Therapists*
World Federation of the Deaf*
World Psychiatric Association

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* Based on reports of collaboration for the period under review 2010–2012, the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations recommended the maintenance in official relations of those nongovernmental organizations whose names are followed by an asterisk. The other nongovernmental organizations are the subject of specific decisions or a resolution.