EXECUTIVE BOARD
138th session
Provisional agenda item 12.5

EB138/NGO/5
4 December 2015

Application from World Cancer Research Fund International for admission into official relations with WHO

1. General information

(a) Name and address of the headquarters

World Cancer Research Fund International
Second Floor
22 Bedford Square
London WC1B 3HH
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Website: http://www.wcrf.org/

(b) Link to the entity's profile in the WHO Register of non-State actors

http://apps.who.int/register-nonstate-actors/nsa.aspx?id=242

2. Aims/purpose/objective of the entity

World Cancer Research Fund International, which was established in 1999, has as its vision a world where no one develops a preventable cancer. The goals of the Fund are to promote, fund, support and encourage research and public education, both nationally and internationally, on the causes and treatment of cancer, including the relationship between diet, lifestyle, nutrition and cancer.

3. Other criteria for the admission of the entity into official relations with WHO

International structure/scope: World Cancer Research Fund International has its headquarters in London and its national members are based in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (China), Amsterdam, London and Washington, DC. The activities of the Fund have a global impact; for example, the Continuous Update Project, which analyses global research on how diet, weight nutrition and physical activity affect cancer risk and survival, engages over 100 scientists from 17 countries.

Constitution/by-laws: The Fund has by-laws that were last modified in 2007. The relations between World Cancer Fund International and its national members are regulated by national membership agreements, which outline the responsibilities and obligations of each party. Although the national members are independent, their governing documents are expected to comply with the guidelines and requirements of World Cancer Fund International.

Governing body: The General Assembly meets once a year and its responsibilities are to: elect the Board of Directors for a maximum of two years; appoint and discharge directors; approve budgets and annual accounts; determine the amount of fees or dues to be paid; amend statutes; dissolve or liquidate the Fund; elect and exclude members; and adopt internal rules. The Board of Directors is responsible for ensuring the achievement of the Fund's goals and for managing its business and assets. It performs all activities related to the ordinary and extraordinary management of the Fund with the broadest powers.

Administrative structure: According to the membership agreements, World Cancer Research Fund International has to provide designated staff at its headquarters in London to give directional support to the national members. The national members have their own administrative structures.

Financial information: The Fund's annual income consists of membership fees from the national members.

4. Collaboration with WHO

(a) Activities carried out with WHO over the past three years

The collaboration between World Cancer Research Fund International and WHO, which started over 10 years ago, focuses on increasing the understanding of the link between the prevention of cancer and other noncommunicable diseases and diet, weight and physical activity, and on obtaining more evidence for policy-making. It has resulted in more efficient communication with key stakeholders, including policy-makers, civil society and researchers in key areas.

WHO participated as an official observer, with five other international organizations, in the processes for the development and finalization of World Cancer Research Fund International's second expert report *Food, nutrition, physical activity, and the prevention of cancer: a global perspective* (2007), the subsequent report *Policy and action for cancer prevention: food, nutrition, and physical activity: a global perspective* (2009), and the Latin American regional summary of the latter. WHO also participated as a member of the Fund's Methodology Task Force for the 2007 report.

WHO was invited to give presentations during plenary and other sessions at several conferences organized by the Fund. These included a conference on current challenges and new horizons for cancer prevention in connection with nutrition and physical activity and a conference on cancer and obesity in 2010, and a conference on obesity, physical activity and cancer in 2013.

From 2011 to 2014, the Fund participated as a member in the International Agency for Research in Cancer's Working Group for the third revision of the European Code Against Cancer and, from 2010 to 2012, a WHO representative was a member of the Fund's Grant Panel, during which time 18 grants were awarded.

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

The goal of the Fund's collaboration with WHO is to advance the development and implementation across the world of effective policies on diet, weight and physical activity, in order to help people reduce their risk of cancer and other noncommunicable diseases. This will support WHO's goal, as set out in the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013–2020, of reducing premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases by 25% by 2025.

The Fund's NOURISHING framework and its accompanying policy database help policy-makers to formalize a comprehensive package of policies to promote healthy diets and reduce obesity and noncommunicable diseases. The database currently contains information on 255 implemented policies from 100 countries. WHO will be able to access the NOURISHING database and the Fund's technical expertise to obtain further evidence for policy-makers. In addition, joint advocacy efforts between the Fund and WHO will take place to move cancer and other noncommunicable diseases up the international policy agenda.

A WHO representative will participate as an official observer in the Fund's Policy Advisory Group, which was established in 2015. WHO will also be invited to provide feedback on and input into the development of a methodology for sourcing policy actions that have been implemented for inclusion in the NOURISHING database, thereby ensuring a transparent and robust procedure that will increase the uptake of policy actions by policy-makers and other stakeholders. A system for regularly cross-updating the NOURISHING database and the WHO Global database on the implementation of nutrition action will be developed and implemented, to ensure that recommendations are consistent and that the most up-to-date information is available to policy-makers and other stakeholders. WHO will be given access to the Fund's Continuous Update Project database, which currently holds over 9000 publications on cancer and which is maintained by researchers at Imperial College London, in order to support its guideline prioritization process and the forthcoming evidence reviews on diet. Furthermore, the outputs from and findings of research carried out under the Fund's research grant programme into the effects of diet, nutrition, body composition and physical activity on cancer prevention and survival are shared with WHO to help keep the Organization abreast of the latest scientific findings and reviews.

Further to the Second International Conference on Nutrition in 2014, the Fund will develop joint advocacy efforts with WHO to promote the adoption and implementation of a decade of action on nutrition from 2016 to 2025, for example by organizing joint side events at relevant United Nations meetings in Geneva and New York, holding meetings with representatives of the BRICS group of countries (Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa), fostering joint communications and social media engagement, and enhancing the involvement of civil society. Future implementation projects will be discussed as and when a decade of action has been agreed on by the United Nations General Assembly.

The Fund will support WHO by providing technical advice and by participating, when requested to do so, in relevant WHO advisory groups on the development of implementation tools for the WHO guidelines on sugar intake and on the review of Appendix 3 of the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013–2020.

Other relevant information

Due diligence and risk assessment conducted by the Secretariat on the entity concluded that an application from World Cancer Research Fund International could be presented to the Executive Board for its consideration.

= = =