



# WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD  
105th Session  
Agenda item 7.4

EB105/28  
28 January 2000

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## Collaboration with nongovernmental organizations

### Report of the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations

1. The Standing Committee<sup>1</sup> met on 25 January 2000 under the Chairmanship of Professor S.M. Ali to consider the documents prepared under agenda item 7.4, "Collaboration with nongovernmental organizations". A report on the discussions and recommendations of the Standing Committee follows. The Board is invited to decide on the draft resolution and draft decision set out in Section III below.

#### **I. APPLICATIONS OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR ADMISSION INTO OFFICIAL RELATIONS** (Restricted documents EB105/NGO/1-2)

2. The Committee examined applications from the Organisation pour la Prévention de la Cécité (document EB105/NGO/1) and the International Society of Doctors for the Environment (document EB105/NGO/2) which had been transmitted to the Members of the Board with circular letter L/99.17 of 25 November 1999. It was noted that, in accordance with paragraph 3.5 of the Principles governing relations between the World Health Organization and nongovernmental organizations<sup>2</sup> concerning national nongovernmental organizations, both the French Government and the Regional Director for Europe had been consulted and expressed no objection to the submission of the application from the Organisation pour la Prévention de la Cécité. The organization's activities in blindness prevention, especially in Africa, were well known and appreciated.

3. Discussions at the Board on the relationship between environment and health had highlighted the importance of links with relevant nongovernmental organizations. The committee favoured the application of the International Society of Doctors for the Environment. Even though its collaboration with WHO was mainly focused in the European region the organization undertakes activities in other regions. Based upon the information provided, including supplementary information, the Committee was satisfied that the nongovernmental organization met the criteria.

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<sup>1</sup> Members of the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations are: Professor S.M. Ali (Bangladesh); Professor J.-L. Mamdaba (Central African Republic); Dr J. Jiménez de la Jara (Chile); Dr C. Komodikis (Cyprus) (alternate to Mr F. Savvides); Dr G.M. van Etten (Netherlands).

<sup>2</sup> *Basic Documents*, forty-second edition, 1999, pp. 74-79.

**In view of the above, the Committee decided to recommend to the Executive Board that the above-mentioned nongovernmental organizations should be admitted into official relations with WHO.**

## **II. REVIEW OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO (Restricted document EB105/NGO/WP/1)**

4. In accordance with the *Principles governing relations between the World Health Organization and nongovernmental organizations*, the Standing Committee reviewed collaboration with one-third of the nongovernmental organizations in official relations. For the review the Committee used reports submitted by the nongovernmental organizations and contributions from the technical officers responsible for collaboration. It also considered reports on the status of relations with nongovernmental organizations that were the subject of decision EB103(2).<sup>1</sup> Altogether 70 nongovernmental organizations (as listed in the Annex) were reviewed.

5. In reviewing the reports of collaboration for the period 1996-1999 from the 44 nongovernmental organizations, referred to in Annex 1 to document EB105/NGO/WP/1, the Committee noted that these organizations mainly supported WHO's work on communicable and noncommunicable diseases, environment as it relates to water and sanitation, chemical and radiation safety, and the prevention of blindness and deafness. Moreover, further collaboration was planned.

6. Three of the 44 nongovernmental organizations were the subject of particular attention: the Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering, the International Association on Water Quality and the International Water Services Association. The Committee noted that collaboration with the Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering occurred in the Region of the Americas, and that efforts would be made to encourage the organization to adopt an interregional role, in particular concerning training activities. The relations with the two other organizations are considered in paragraphs 7-9 below.

**In view of the above, the Committee decided to recommend that the Board should note that efforts will be made to encourage interregional cooperation with the Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering and that WHO should commend the above-mentioned nongovernmental organizations for their continuing collaboration and maintain official relations with them.**

### **International Association on Water Quality, International Water Services Association and International Water Association**

7. The Committee noted that at a meeting in late August/September 1999 the International Association on Water Quality and the International Water Services Association merged to establish a new nongovernmental organization, the International Water Association, and that the latter had requested admission into official relations.

8. The International Association on Water Quality was admitted into official relations in 1972 and the International Water Services Association in 1962. Both organizations had collaborated with WHO until 1999. The Committee considered that, as a result of the merger, the two organizations had ceased

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB103/1999/REC/1, p. 23.

to exist as independent entities therefore it would be appropriate to discontinue official relations with them.

9. The Committee then considered the request for the admission of the International Water Association into official relations, reviewing Annex 2 of document EB105/NGO/WP/1 and supplementary information about the organization. In particular the Committee noted that a work plan had been agreed by which the Association would extend technical support to continuing work of revision of water standards, in particular microbiological quality in piped and non-piped distribution systems, safety of desalinated water, and safe re-use of wastewater. The Association would also work towards the incorporation of such standards in legislation and public health practice. In view of the unfinished collaborative activities with the two merged organizations and the agreement of a work plan, the Committee favoured the admittance of the International Water Association into official relations with WHO.

**In view of the above, the Committee decided to recommend to the Board that official relations should be discontinued with the International Association on Water Quality and the International Water Services Association, and that the International Water Association should be admitted into official relations with WHO.**

#### **International Council of Societies of Pathology and the International Society for Preventive Oncology**

10. The Committee understood that, although there had been no collaboration with these two organizations during the period under review, possibilities existed for revitalizing the relations.

**In view of the above the Committee decided to recommend to the Board that WHO should maintain official relations with the International Council of Societies of Pathology and the International Society for Preventive Oncology for one year to enable the development of a work plan.**

#### **International Astronautical Federation, International Society of Biometeorology and International Council for Laboratory Animal Science**

11. The Committee noted that the International Astronautical Federation and the International Society of Biometeorology had not responded to invitations to contribute a report on their activities with WHO, and that the relevant departments with whom these organizations had collaborated had advised that there had been no joint activities during the period under review. Furthermore, no collaboration was expected in the immediate future.

12. When last reviewed,<sup>1</sup> WHO had maintained official relations with the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science for one year in order to revitalize relations. On the basis of a work plan submitted at the Board's ninety-ninth session WHO had further maintained official relations.<sup>2</sup> The organization in its report for the current review period made no reference to joint activities, but it expected that WHO would be a partner in developing training materials. According to the information in EB105/NGO/WP/1, WHO did not discount the possibility of ad hoc cooperation with the Council in the future but did not expect collaboration as called for in the Principles.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision EB97(15).

<sup>2</sup> Decision EB99(17).

**In view of the above, the Committee decided to recommend to the Board that official relations with the International Astronautical Federation, the International Society of Biometeorology and the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science should be discontinued.**

### **International Leprosy Union**

13. Relations with the Union were the subject of considerable discussion and further information was sought. The Committee noted that the Union's report demonstrated that it was an active nongovernmental organization which continued to advocate the work and policies of WHO. During the period under review it had participated in several WHO meetings, and in January 1999 WHO had participated in the Union's workshop in Bangladesh for media experts on the subject of increasing media coverage for leprosy. The Union's contribution to the work of WHO during the period under review was valuable.

14. However, and notwithstanding the value of its collaboration with WHO during the past three years, the Committee noted that WHO's approach to dealing with communicable diseases, in particular those that can be eliminated as a public health problem, had changed. Thus priorities, and therefore WHO resources, are directed at concerted action with organizations that have an extensive presence at district level that is likely to help WHO intensify work towards leprosy elimination in countries in which leprosy is still a public health problem. The Committee noted that in general the Union's contribution to national programmes was considered limited. It concluded that the development and maintenance of joint activities was not an effective use of WHO resources.

**In view of the above, the Committee decided to recommend to the Board that official relations should be discontinued with the International Leprosy Union and that it should request the Director-General, when informing the Union of the decision, to express appreciation of the Union's work in the field of leprosy.**

### **International Academy of Pathology, International Association of Hydatid Disease, International Organization against Trachoma, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, International Federation for Housing and Planning, International League of Associations for Rheumatology, International Radiation Protection Association, and Rotary International**

15. The Committee noted that in absence of reports from the above-mentioned organizations it was not possible to review their relations.

**In view of the above, the Committee decided to recommend to the Board that the review of relations with the above-mentioned nongovernmental organizations should be deferred until its 107th session.**

### **International Air Transport Association and the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease**

16. Reports from the above-mentioned organizations had been received after completion of document EB/105/NGO/WP/1. Collaborative activities with the International Air Transport Association concerned the action and follow-up to be taken in the case of passengers suffering from infectious diseases. Several joint meetings had addressed the problems posed by the current international transport regulations for dangerous goods, in particular as they related to infectious

materials. Furthermore, aircraft-disinsection practices are being surveyed. Collaboration with the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease had been extensive, ranging from numerous training courses at national and regional levels and technical assistance from the Union in several country activities to joint research activities. The Committee considered that current and expected collaboration warranted the maintenance of official relations.

**In view of the above, the Committee decided to recommend to the Board that WHO should maintain official relations with the above-mentioned organizations.**

17. The Committee reviewed information concerning follow-up to decision EB103(2).

**International Alliance of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Medical Society of Paraplegia, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, and World Federation of United Nations Associations**

18. In accordance with decision EB103(2) WHO had maintained official relations with the above-mentioned nongovernmental organizations in order to enable plans for collaboration to be drawn up. Document EB105/NGO/WP/1 reported that discussions were continuing.

**In view of the above, the Committee decided to recommend to the Board that WHO should maintain official relations with the above-mentioned organizations for a further year.**

**Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum, International Association for Suicide Prevention, International League against Epilepsy, International Union of Nutritional Sciences and World Federation of the Deaf**

19. In accordance with decision EB103(2) the review of relations with the above-mentioned nongovernmental organizations had been deferred pending receipt of their reports on collaboration with WHO. The Committee reviewed the reports submitted by the nongovernmental organizations.

20. The Committee noted that, although during the period under review there had been no collaboration with the Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum, both organizations wanted to revitalize the relations and had agreed a work plan. This plan includes participation in each other's scientific and technical meetings. Further, the Collegium will assist WHO in the collation and dissemination of information on best practices in neuropsychopharmacology and facilitate the attendance of participants identified by WHO from developing countries in the nongovernmental organization's scientific and educational programmes.

21. On the basis of reports on joint activities presented by the remaining other organizations listed above, the Committee was satisfied that present and planned collaboration warranted the maintenance of official relations.

**In view of the above, the Committee decided to recommend to the Board that WHO should maintain official relations with the following organizations: Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum, International Association for Suicide Prevention, International League against Epilepsy, International Union of Nutritional Sciences and World Federation of the Deaf.**

### III. PROPOSED DRAFT RESOLUTION AND DECISION

#### Draft resolution on relations with nongovernmental organizations

The Executive Board,

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

1. DECIDES to establish official relations with the following nongovernmental organizations:

Organisation pour la Prévention de la Cécité  
International Society of Doctors for the Environment  
International Water Association;

2. DECIDES to discontinue official relations with the following nongovernmental organizations:

International Association on Water Quality  
International Water Services Association  
International Astronautical Federation  
International Society of Biometeorology  
International Council for Laboratory Animal Science  
International Leprosy Union.

#### Draft decision on review of nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO

The Executive Board, having considered the report of its Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations concerning the review of one-third of the nongovernmental organizations in official relations and following up decision EB103(2), reached the decisions set out below.

On the basis of the reports of collaboration submitted by 48 nongovernmental organizations, including those for which review had been deferred pending receipt of information, the Board commended the efforts of the organizations to support WHO's work in communicable and noncommunicable diseases, environment as it relates to water and sanitation, chemical and radiation safety, and the prevention of blindness and deafness, and decided to maintain official relations with them.

Concerning the Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering, the Board also noted that efforts would be made to encourage interregional cooperation.

Concerning the International Council of Societies of Pathology and the International Society for Preventive Oncology, the Board noted that although there had been no collaboration, possibilities existed for collaborative activities and therefore decided to maintain official relations with them for one year to enable the preparation of plans for collaboration.

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB105/28.

In the absence of reports on collaboration from the International Academy of Pathology, International Association of Hydatid Disease, International Organization against Trachoma, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, International Federation for Housing and Planning International, International League of Associations for Rheumatology, International Radiation Protection Association, and Rotary International, the Board decided to defer the review of relations until its 107th session.

The Board, noting the continued efforts to draw up mutually agreed work plans, decided to maintain official relations with the following nongovernmental organizations for a further year: International Alliance of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Medical Society of Paraplegia, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and World Federation of United Nations Associations.

Concerning Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum, the Board noted that although there had been no joint activities during the period under review, a work plan had been agreed. The Board decided to maintain official relations with the Collegium.

ANNEX

**LIST OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS  
REVIEWED BY  
THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS 105TH SESSION**

Association of the Institutes and Schools of Tropical Medicine in Europe\*  
Christoffel-Blindenmission\*  
Collegium Internationale Neuro-Psychopharmacologicum  
European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals\*  
FDI World Dental Federation\*  
Global Crop Protection Federation\*  
Helen Keller International, Incorporated\*  
Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering\*  
International Academy of Pathology  
International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness\*  
International Air Transport Association\*  
International Alliance of Women  
International Association for Dental Research\*  
International Association for Suicide Prevention\*  
International Association for the Study of Pain\*  
International Association of Hydatid Disease  
International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatics\*  
International Association on Water Quality  
International Astronautical Federation  
International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Monitoring Systems\*  
International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection\*  
International Commission on Radiological Protection\*  
International Consultation on Urological Diseases\*  
International Council for Laboratory Animal Science  
International Council of Societies of Pathology  
International Cystic Fibrosis (Mucoviscidosis) Association\*  
International Diabetes Federation\*  
International Eye Foundation\*  
International Federation for Housing and Planning  
International Federation of Business and Professional Women  
International Federation of Hydrotherapy and Climatotherapy\*  
International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies\*  
International Federation of Oto-Rhino-Laryngological Societies\*  
International Federation of Sports Medicine\*  
International League against Epilepsy\*  
International League of Associations for Rheumatology  
International Leprosy Association\*  
International Leprosy Union  
International Life Sciences Institute\*

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\* Standing Committee proposed the maintenance of official relations; other nongovernmental organizations are the subject of specific decisions.



International Medical Society of Paraplegia  
International Organization against Trachoma  
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War  
International Radiation Protection Association  
International Society for Preventive Oncology  
International Society of Biometeorology  
International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care\*  
International Solid Waste 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 (World Conservation Union)\*  
International Union of Immunological Societies\*  
International Union of Local Authorities\*  
International Union of Nutritional Sciences\*  
International Union of Toxicology\*  
International Water Services Association  
Project ORBIS International, Inc. (ORBIS International)\*  
Rotary International  
Thalassaemia International Federation\*  
The International Association of Lions Clubs\*  
The Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind (Sight Savers International)\*  
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts  
World Blind Union\*  
World Federation of Associations of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicology Centres\*  
World Federation of Hemophilia\*  
World Federation of the Deaf\*  
World Federation of United Nations Associations  
World Heart Federation\*  
World Hypertension League\*  
World Veterinary Association\*

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\* Standing Committee proposed the maintainance of official relations; other nongovernmental organizations are the subject of specific decisions.