



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD
107th Session
Agenda item 8.1

EB107/19
20 January 2001

Collaboration with nongovernmental organizations

Report of the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations

1. In accordance with the Principles governing relations between the World Health Organization and nongovernmental organizations,¹ the Standing Committee² met on 16 January 2000 under the chairmanship of Dr G. N'gaïndiro to consider the documents prepared under agenda item 8.1, "Nongovernmental organizations". In addition, the Committee's attention was drawn to an outcome of the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body, which was established to draft and negotiate the proposed WHO framework convention on tobacco control; the Committee was invited to express its views on paragraph 9 of document EB107/30. A report on the discussions and recommendations of the Standing Committee follows. The Board is invited to decide on the draft resolution and draft decisions set out in Section IV below.

I. APPLICATIONS OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR ADMISSION INTO OFFICIAL RELATIONS (Restricted documents EB107/NGO/1 and EB107/NGO/2)

2. The Committee examined applications from the International Association for the Study of Obesity contained in document EB107/NGO/1 and the Global Forum for Health Research contained in document EB107/NGO/2, both of which had been transmitted to the Members of the Board with circular letter L/00.23 of 30 November 2000.

3. Concerning the application from the International Association for the Study of Obesity, it was noted that WHO had identified obesity as a public health problem and that the Association was contributing to the development of global strategies for its prevention and control. As for the application from the Global Forum for Health Research, its work was welcomed. However, it was pointed out that it was not uncommon in developing countries for nongovernmental organizations to undertake research which, while well-intentioned, duplicated that done by governments or, when conducted on human populations, might pose ethical questions. The Forum was active in many research fields and a clarification was requested as to how it identified experts and priorities. The Committee was assured that the Forum undertook research with national researchers on the basis of

¹ *Basic Documents*, forty-second edition, 1999, pp. 74-79.

² Members of the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations are: Professor S.M. Ali (Bangladesh), Dr G. N'gaïndiro (Central African Republic), Dr B. Sadrizadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran), Dr M. Di Gennaro (Italy), Dr A. Abreu Catalá (alternate to Dr G. Rodriguez Ochoa) (Venezuela).

priorities identified at national level, and that, for research on human populations, the requisite approvals from national ethical committees would be sought. WHO itself had such a committee which reviewed protocols for research on human subjects. Concerning the identification of experts and priorities, the collaboration between WHO and the Forum on cardiovascular diseases was cited as an illustration. A scientific group composed of experts advised the Forum's Steering Committee which itself is composed of specialist partner organizations. The Committee noted the clarifications.

In view of the above, the Committee decided to recommend to the Executive Board that the International Association for the Study of Obesity and the Global Forum for Health Research should be admitted into official relations with WHO.

II. REVIEW OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO (Restricted document EB107/NGO/WP/1)

4. The Standing Committee reviewed collaboration with one-third of the nongovernmental organizations in official relations, and considered reports on the status of relations with bodies that were the subject of decision EB105(12).¹ Altogether 82 nongovernmental organizations (as listed in the Annex) were reviewed. It was clarified that the organizations were aware of the nature of the review, and that the Board's decisions were communicated to the nongovernmental organizations after the Board had completed its session.

5. In reviewing the reports of collaboration for the period 1998-2000 from the 54 nongovernmental organizations referred to in the Annex to document EB107/NGO/WP/1, the Committee noted that these organizations supported WHO's work on health systems, health technology and pharmaceuticals, and that further collaboration was either planned or expected to continue. The Committee considered the joint activities to be valuable, and decided to recommend to the Board that the organizations should be maintained in official relations.

International Association for Accident and Traffic Medicine

6. The Committee noted that there had been no collaboration during the period under review and that the Association had undergone major changes including a change of name to the International Traffic Medicine Association. The new Association wished to revitalize relations with WHO and was developing proposals for joint collaboration. In considering the information, the Committee took into account the special expertise of the Association and the fact that traffic accidents, especially in developing countries, are a major public health problem.

In view of this the Committee decided to recommend that the Executive Board should note with concern the absence of collaboration during the period under review but, in consideration of a mutual interest to re-establish planned collaboration, maintain the Federation in official relations for one year to enable the development of a plan for collaboration.

¹ Document EB105/2000/REC/1, pp. 23-24.

International Sociological Association

7. The Committee noted that the Association reported collaboration in the field of informatics but that WHO had no such record, and that the Association's response to a request to provide details of the collaboration referred instead to a major initiative of a third party urging WHO to establish an entity to provide medical services in developing countries. As WHO did not envisage the resumption of planned collaboration, the Committee concluded that effective contacts between the two organizations had lapsed.

In view of the above, the Committee decided to recommend to the Board that official relations be discontinued with the International Sociological Association.

International Association of Cancer Registries, International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements, International Electrotechnical Commission, International Epidemiological Association, International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering, International Federation of Health Records Organizations, International Hospital Federation, International Medical Informatics Association, Save the Children Fund (UK), World Association of the Major Metropolises (Metropolis), and the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists

8. The Committee noted that in the absence of reports from the above-mentioned organization, 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 109th session.

International Academy of Pathology, International Association of Hydatid Disease, International League of Associations for Rheumatology, International Organization against Trachoma, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, International Radiation Protection Association, Rotary International

9. In accordance with decision EB105(12), 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 organizations, and was pleased to learn of the collaboration.

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

International Federation for Housing and Planning

10. The Committee noted that the Federation had yet to respond to invitations to provide a report on joint activities for the period 1996-1999. Although as a result of changes in responsibilities in WHO during the period under review it had not been possible to continue collaboration with the Federation, there was a continuing interest in maintaining relations and exploring the possibility of the development of a joint work plan. In this connection WHO had drawn attention to the relationship between housing and planning and human health. The Committee was concerned by the apparent loss of contact and considered that a review of relations with the Federation should include information

from the Federation. Deferral of the review would provide time for WHO to pursue the development of a work plan.

In view of the above, the Committee decided to recommend to the Board that the review of relations with the International Federation for Housing and Planning should be deferred until its 109th session.

International Alliance of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Society for Preventive Oncology, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

11. In accordance with decision EB105(12), the above-mentioned nongovernmental organizations were maintained in official relations in order to permit the development of plans for collaboration. Such plans, summarized in document EB107/NGO/WP/1, have been developed for all except the International Federation of Business and Professional Women. The Committee noted, however, the results of a meeting in December 2000 between WHO and the Federation which resulted in a work plan consisting of WHO technical support for the Federation's activities in the areas of tobacco, violence against women, mental health, and educational programmes in schools for HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention. In reviewing the plans, the Committee was pleased to note that the various activities during the coming years would serve to restore close and productive 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.

International Council of Societies of Pathology

12. The Committee noted that in accordance with decision EB105(12) the Council had pursued contact with WHO with a view to revitalizing relations based on its activities, in particular the establishment of a telepathology programme for developing countries, and a mutual interest in the classification of tumours. WHO appreciated the Council's work in telepathology, but as the activities were beyond the scope of current WHO priorities it was unable to consider collaboration at this time. With regard to the classification of tumours, WHO advised that, although it had not been feasible to develop a suitable work plan within the time period, it expected that in the future it would be able to propose a structured plan for collaboration.

In view of the above, the Committee decided to recommend to the Board that official relations with the International Council of Societies of Pathology should be suspended until such time that a mutually agreed plan for collaboration has been submitted for consideration by the Board.

International Medical Society of Paraplegia

13. The Committee noted, *inter alia*, that in accordance with decision EB103(2) the Society had been maintained in official relations during 1999 to enable the development of a plan for collaboration. At its 105th session, the Board was informed that, although it had been considered possible to revitalize the relations in the area of prevention of injuries, WHO's priorities had changed and planned cooperation was not envisaged.

However, in view of a mutual interest in the field of rehabilitation it was agreed to explore possibilities for collaboration and the Society had been maintained in official relations for a further year.

14. The Committee noted that the Society had been invited to suggest proposals for cooperation relevant to WHO's work in rehabilitation. However, as the ensuing exchanges appeared to indicate that the focus of the Society's efforts remained the prevention of spinal cord injuries, a work plan in the field of rehabilitation did not materialize.

15. In reviewing the information the Committee was of the view that the Board may wish to indicate appreciation of the Society's efforts to pursue planned collaboration with WHO, but it was also mindful that the basis of an official relationship was a plan for collaboration. From the information available it was evident that this would not be forthcoming in the near future.

In view of the above, the Committee decided to recommend to the Board that official relations with the International Medical Society of Paraplegia should be discontinued.

World Federation of United Nations Associations

16. In accordance with decision EB103(2) the Federation had been maintained in official relations during 1999 to enable the development of a plan for collaboration. In that period WHO had been informed that the Federation was undergoing a major restructuring, and that previous approaches to develop a joint work plan were "null and void". In view of this, the Federation was invited to convey its views on the feasibility of developing a plan for collaboration. A response had not been forthcoming.

In view of the above, the Committee decided to recommend to the Board that, pending the submission of a plan for collaboration, official relations with the World Federation of United Nations Associations be suspended.

III. WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL, REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT (Document EB107/30)

17. The Committee noted that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body had, as requested by the World Health Assembly in resolution WHA53.16, considered at its first session the question of extended participation of nongovernmental organizations in the work of the Negotiating Body. Specifically (document EB107/30, paragraph 9), "a number of Member States expressed a preference for such organizations to participate" in the work of the Negotiating Body in accordance with WHO's existing rules. In this connection the Negotiating Body had "agreed to encourage the Executive Board to explore ways of expediting the review of applications for official relations from organizations seeking the necessary standing during the negotiations".

18. The Committee agreed that under the circumstances the Executive Board may wish to seek ways and means of responding to this request. In so doing, it would be important, in the view of the Committee, to ensure respect for the criteria for admission as set out in the principles governing relations between WHO and nongovernmental organizations. The Committee proposed that the Executive Board may wish to agree to authorize its Chairman, acting jointly with the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations, to consider requests from such organizations that want to participate in the work of the Negotiating Body, on an ad hoc basis in between its January

sessions. If the nongovernmental organizations are already in working relations with WHO and they appear to otherwise meet the criteria for admission into official relations, and if their mandates are relevant to the work of the Negotiating Body, the Chairmen would provisionally admit them into official relations. Such provisional official relations would then be confirmed or terminated at the subsequent January session of the Executive Board. Unless otherwise decided by the Board, the arrangement would be applicable until the adoption of the framework convention on tobacco control.

IV. PROPOSED DRAFT RESOLUTION AND DECISIONS

Draft resolution on relations with nongovernmental organizations

The Executive Board,

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

1. DECIDES to establish official relations with the International Association for the Study of Obesity and the Global Forum for Health Research;
2. DECIDES to discontinue official relations with the International Sociological Association and the International Medical Society of Paraplegia.
3. DECIDES, pending the development of mutually agreed plans for collaboration, to suspend official relations with the International Council of Societies of Pathology and the World Federation of United Nations Associations.

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 to decision EB105(12) reached the decisions set out below.

On the basis of the reports of collaboration submitted by 61 nongovernmental organizations, including those for whom a review had been deferred pending receipt of information, the Board commended the efforts of the organizations to support WHO's work in health systems, health technology and pharmaceuticals, and decided to maintain official relations with them.

Concerning the International Traffic Medicine Association, previously known as the International Association for Accident and Traffic Medicine, the Board was concerned that collaboration had lapsed. Its review, however, took into account that traffic accidents were a major public health problem and that both WHO and the newly reorganized Association had expressed wishes to resume collaboration. In the light of this the Board decided to maintain official relations with the Association for one year to enable the preparation of a plan for collaboration.

¹ Document EB107/19.

In the absence of reports on collaboration from the International Association of Cancer Registries, International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements, International Electrotechnical Commission, International Epidemiological Association, International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering, International Federation of Health Records Organizations, International Hospital Federation, International Medical Informatics Association, Save the Children Fund (UK), World Association of the Major Metropolises (Metropolis), and the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists, the Board decided to defer the review of relations until its 109th session.

Concerning the International Alliance of Women, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, the International Society for Preventive Oncology, and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the Board was gratified that efforts to revitalize relations had resulted in agreement for plans for collaboration and decided to maintain official relations.

Concerning the International Federation for Housing and Planning, in view of the absence of a report on collaboration, and taking into consideration WHO's interest in exploring possibilities for the re-establishment of collaboration based on a mutually agreed plan of work, the Board decided to defer the review of relations until its 109th session.

Draft decision on measures to be taken for facilitating the participation of nongovernmental organizations in the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body on the WHO framework convention on tobacco control

The Executive Board, having considered 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. 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 Negotiating Body on the WHO framework convention on tobacco control, 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 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 Negotiating Body; and
- (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 adoption of the WHO framework convention on tobacco control.

ANNEX

**LIST OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS
REVIEWED BY
THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS 107TH SESSION**

African Medical and Research Foundation International*
Aga Khan Foundation*
CMC – Churches’ Action for Health*
Commonwealth Medical Association*
Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association*
Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences*
Council on Health Research for Development*
Federation for International Cooperation of Health Services and Systems Research Centers*
Global Health Council*¹
International Academy of Pathology*
International Association of Biologists Technicians*
International Association of Cancer Registries
International Association of Hydatid Disease*
International Association of Medical Laboratory Technologists*
International Alliance of Women
International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-social Assistants*
International College of Surgeons*
International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements
International Conference of Deans of French-Language Faculties of Medicine*
International Council for Science*
International Council for Standardization in Haematology*
International Council of Nurses*
International Council of Societies of Pathology
International Electrotechnical Commission
International Epidemiological Association
International Federation for Housing and Planning
International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering
International Federation of Business and Professional Women
International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine*²
International Federation of Health Records Organizations
International Federation of Hospital Engineering*
International Federation of Medical Students Associations*
International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations*
International Federation of Surgical Colleges*
International Hospital Federation
International League of Associations for Rheumatology*
International League of Dermatological Societies*
International Medical Informatics Association

* The Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations proposed the maintenance of official relations; other nongovernmental organizations are the subject of specific decisions.

¹ Previously known as the National Council for International Health.

² Previously known as the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry.

International Medical Parliamentarians Organization
 International Medical Society of Paraplegia
 International Organisation of Consumers Unions (Consumers International)*
 International Organization against Trachoma*
 International Organization for Standardization*
 International Pharmaceutical Federation*
 International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War*
 International Radiation Protection Association*
 International Society for Burn Injuries*
 International Society for Preventive Oncology
 International Society of Blood Transfusion*
 International Society of Chemotherapy*
 International Society of Hematology*
 International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology*
 International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists*
 International Society of Radiology*
 International Society of Surgery*
 International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis, Inc.*
 International Sociological Association
 International Traffic Medicine Association
 International Union of Architects*
 International Union of Microbiological Societies*
 International Union of Pharmacology*
 International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry*
 Inter-Parliamentary Union*
 Medicus Mundi International*
 OXFAM*
 Rotary International*
 Save the Children Fund (UK)
 The Network Community Partnerships for Health through Innovative Education, Service and Research*¹
 World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
 World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine*
 World Association of the Major Metropolises (Metropolis)
 World Federation for Medical Education*
 World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology*
 World Federation of Acupuncture-Moxibustion Societies*
 World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology*
 World Federation of Public Health Associations*
 World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists
 World Federation of United Nations Associations
 World Medical Association*
 World Organization of Family Doctors*
 World Self-Medication Industry*
 World Vision International*

* The Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations proposed the maintenance of official relations; other nongovernmental organizations are the subject of specific decisions.

¹ Previously known as the Network of Community-oriented Educational Institutions for Health Sciences.