



# WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
**113th Session**  
**Agenda item 7.3**

**EB113/23**  
**23 January 2004**

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## **Collaboration with nongovernmental organizations**

### **Report of the 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 (NGOs),<sup>1</sup> the Standing Committee<sup>2</sup> met on 20 January 2004 to consider the documents prepared for Item 7.3, Reports of the Executive Board committees, including awards. The Board is invited to decide on the proposed draft resolution and decision set out in section III below.

#### **I. APPLICATIONS OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR ADMISSION INTO OFFICIAL RELATIONS (Restricted documents EB113/NGO/1-5)**

2. The Committee examined applications from the International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and Allied Professions (IACAPAP) (document EB113/NGO/1), the International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF) (document EB113/NGO/2), the World Council of Optometry (WCO) (document EB113/NGO/3), the International Council of Grocery Manufacturers Associations (ICGMA) (document EB113/NGO/4) and the Confederation of the Food and Drink Industries of the EU (CIAA) (document EB113/NGO/5). The applications were transmitted to the members of the Board under cover of letters numbered L/03.24, dated 25 November 2003, and L/03.25, dated 12 December 2003.

3. According to the information provided in its application and supplementary information from WHO, IACAPAP promoted the study, treatment, care and prevention of mental and emotional disorders and deficiencies of children, adolescents and their families. During its working relations with WHO, IACAPAP extended technical support to a number of specialist conferences/seminars. It also seconded a child and adolescent psychiatrist to WHO to provide assistance in the development of WHO's strategy for the care of children and adolescents with mental disorders. It was noted that WHO had increasing call for the expertise of such professionals, however, resources were lacking. The Association's expertise was, therefore, very valuable to WHO.

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<sup>1</sup> *Basic documents*, 44th ed. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2003.

<sup>2</sup> Members of the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations: Dr F. Huerta Montalvo (Ecuador), Dr Z. Alemu, Chairperson (Eritrea), Professor Mya Oo (Myanmar), Dra P. Alonso Cuesta (alternate to Dr A.M. Pastor Julián (Spain)), Dr A.B. Osman (Sudan).

4. With regard to the application from IPSF, which was established to study and promote the interests of pharmaceutical students and to encourage international cooperation among students, it was noted that its members were drawn from students in over 70 countries, representing more than 300 000 students in all WHO regions. The Federation undertook a wide range of activities in cooperation with WHO in several fields of work relevant to WHO, for example, health promotion/disease prevention, HIV/AIDS, and counterfeit medicines. Its work with WHO included assistance in the development of "The official world list of pharmacy schools". The Federation was also committed to a long-term campaign to ensure that pharmacy schools become smoke free.

5. With regard to the application from WCO, it was noted that the NGO was the professional association for optometrists, with some 300 000 members in several WHO regions. It represented a profession that was important in eye health care, and one which WHO planned to continue collaborating with. It was noted that the Council's approach to activities was entirely in line with WHO plans.

6. With regard to the application from ICGMA, according to the information provided it is an organization of associations concerned with the manufacture and distribution of foods, beverages and other grocery products. It was noted also that the ICGMA also worked with WHO within the context of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission. In so far as its work with WHO was concerned, the Committee was informed that the Association had access to a variety of data and know-how that was unavailable elsewhere and which was important to the understanding of certain issues relating to food safety. The Council's technical input into WHO's work which led, *inter alia*, to the publication "Terrorist threats to food: guidance for establishing and strengthening prevention and response systems" was an example. It also contributed to the 13th Inter-American meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Health and Agriculture, Washington, United States of America, April 2003. The work on bioterrorism was expected to continue.

7. With regard to the application from CIAA, it was noted that it represented the interests of the food and drink manufacturing industry in the European Union. The aims of the Confederation include a clear reference to the development of solutions to problems in food and drink industries, i.e. including health-related concerns related to food. It was noted that the development of future food safety systems, as specifically supported by WHO and FAO (resolution WHA53.15 of May 2000), has as an important prerequisite the interaction between authorities and producers covering the full food production chain. During its working relations with WHO, the Association provided data and expertise to develop the analytical methodology concerning the mechanics of formation and prevention of acrylamide in foods. This was a new and urgent public health problem and one which the Association's expertise was highly appreciated. It also participated in an FAO/WHO Pan-European Conference on Food Safety and Quality, February 2002, and continues to participate actively in the strengthening of work related to international standard setting in the food area (FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission).

8. The Committee was satisfied that the five NGOs listed in paragraph 2 above met the criteria for admission into official relations as set out in the Principles. It noted the activities undertaken during the previous two years in support of the implementation of WHO policies and that plans to continue collaboration had been agreed. In view of this the Committee agreed to recommend the admission into official relations of these five international nongovernmental organizations.

## II. REVIEW OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO (Restricted document EB113/NGO/WP/1)

9. The abovementioned document contained information about collaboration, or the status of relations, between WHO and approximately one-third of the NGOs in official relations and, as appropriate, NGOs referred to in decision EB111(6).<sup>1</sup> Altogether 82 NGOs were reviewed in order, *inter alia*, to determine the desirability of maintaining them in official relations with WHO. A list of their names appears in the Annex.

10. The Committee reviewed reports of collaboration from 55 NGOs listed in the Annex to document EB113/NGO/WP/1. For the most part activities took place during the period 2001-2003, except for NGOs<sup>2</sup> referred to in paragraph 4 of decision EB111(6) which took place during the period 2000-2002.

11. The Committee sought clarification about the evaluation of the collaboration. It was explained that each NGO was appointed a focal point in WHO to be responsible for collaboration. Such staff were responsible for the evaluation of the work of the NGO and it was based on their evaluations that the Secretariat recommendations were developed. The Committee agreed to recommend that the 56 NGOs (whose names appear followed by an asterisk in the Annex to this report) should be maintained in official relations, and expressed appreciation of their work with WHO.

12. The Committee requested the Secretariat to establish more specific and clearer criteria with respect to the Committee's review of NGOs already in official relations with WHO. The purpose of such criteria would be to better enable the Committee to make an informed assessment as to whether the NGOs continue to satisfy the criteria for an NGO to be in official relations with WHO. During the discussion of EB113/NGO/WP/1, the Committee sought clarification concerning how "international" was defined and whether collaboration between WHO and NGOs entailed financing. It was explained that as a general rule an NGO was considered to be international if it had activities and/or members in more than one WHO region. As for financing, much of the collaboration between WHO and the NGOs in official relations was undertaken on a voluntary basis, although occasionally it entailed the provision of payment by WHO under a contract to an NGO. It could also entail financing from an NGO to WHO.

13. A report concerning relations with the Inter-Parliamentary Union was then considered. The Committee noted that the Union's request to attend the World Health Assembly in the capacity of an observer had been accepted and that the Union had informed WHO that it wished to "withdraw from its status as a non-governmental organization" in official relations with WHO. The Committee agreed to recommend that note be taken of the decision to invite the Union to the World Health Assembly as an observer and, in accordance with the Union's request, discontinue official relations.

14. In the absence of reports on collaboration, the Committee was unable to review relations with the following NGOs: CMC – Churches' Action for Health, Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association, Federation for International Cooperation of Health Services and Systems Research Centers, International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants, International Council for Science, International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering, International

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB111/2003/REC/1, pp. 24-25.

<sup>2</sup> International Eye Foundation, International Federation of Oto-Rhino-Laryngological Societies, International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, International Union of Local Authorities, World Organization of the Scout Movement.

Society of Blood Transfusion, International Society of Chemotherapy, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology. The Committee recommended that, in view of the absence of the reports, the review of relations with these 11 NGOs be deferred until the Board's 115th session.

15. The Committee then considered reports concerning follow-up to its decision EB111(6).<sup>1</sup>

16. In accordance with paragraphs 3 and 6 of the decision, the International Union of Toxicology, the International Ergonomics Association and the International Medical Informatics Association had been maintained in official relations to enable, *inter alia*, the development of plans for collaboration. The Committee noted that the NGOs had developed plans for collaboration with WHO in the fields of chemical safety, occupational health and health systems in so far as they relate to medical informatics. The Committee was pleased that it had been possible to re-establish collaboration and was satisfied that the relations warranted the maintenance of the three NGOs in official relations with WHO.

17. As for efforts to agree a work plan with the International Council on Social Welfare, the Council had informed WHO that a response to the request for a report on efforts to agree a work plan would be forthcoming. The Committee noted, however, that the report was outstanding. In its absence the Committee agreed to recommend a deferment of a decision on relations with the Council until the Executive Board's 115th session.

18. The Committee then noted that, in accordance with paragraph 4 of decision EB111(6), the review of relations with certain NGOs had been deferred pending receipt of their reports of collaboration. Some were dealt with in connection with the general review of relations as set out in paragraph 10 above. However, reports remained outstanding from the following NGOs: the International Academy of Pathology, International Federation on Ageing, International Radiation Protection Association, International Society for Human and Animal Mycology, International Solid Waste Association, International Union of Immunological Societies, World Assembly of Youth, World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation, and the World Federation of Parasitologists.

19. It was noted that decisions on the status of official relations with these nine NGOs had already been deferred, prompting the Committee to wonder about the value of such a practice. In this connection, it also remarked that formal rules might be helpful in the future. The Committee decided to recommend that the NGOs be reminded of the requirement to submit reports and be informed that, if their reports are not provided in time for consideration at the Executive Board's 115th session, official relations will be discontinued. In the meantime, the Committee decided to recommend that the review of relations with these nine NGOs be deferred until the Board's 115th session.

20. The report from the Association of the Institutes and Schools of Tropical Medicine<sup>2</sup> in Europe was considered. It was noted that the Association had restructured during the period under review and that this had tended to affect its ability to work collaboratively. However, both parties envisaged the re-establishment of cooperation. In view of this, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Association be maintained in official relations.

21. Finally, the report from the International League of Associations for Rheumatology was reviewed. It was noted that during the period under review the League amended its constitution and

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB111/2003/REC/1, pp 24-25.

<sup>2</sup> Appears in Annex followed by an asterisk.

continued to pursue a programme of valuable activities. However, this programme was not pursued with WHO. For its part WHO did not envisage working in a planned fashion with the League. In view of this the Committee agreed to recommend the discontinuation of official relations with the International League of Associations for Rheumatology.

### **III. PROPOSED DRAFT RESOLUTION AND DECISION**

#### **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 International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and Allied Professions; International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation; World Council of Optometry; International Council of Grocery Manufacturers Associations and the Confederation of the Food and Drink Industries of the EU;
2. DECIDES, at the request of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to discontinue official relations with the Union and notes that the Union's request to attend the World Health Assembly as an observer has been accepted;
3. DECIDES to discontinue official relations with the International League of Associations for Rheumatology.

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

The Executive Board,

Having considered and noted the report<sup>1</sup> of its Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations concerning the review of one-third of the NGOs in official relations, and follow-up to decision EB111(6), decided as follows concerning the relations with the NGOs listed in the Annex to the report.

The Board requested the Director-General to convey its appreciation of the continuing efforts of the 56 NGOs, whose names appear followed by an asterisk in the Annex to the report, to support WHO's objectives and that, on the basis of its review of their reports of collaboration, decided to maintain them in official relations with WHO.

In the absence of reports making it possible to undertake a review, the Board decided to defer review of relations with the following NGOs until its 115th session: CMC – Churches' Action for Health, Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association, Federation for International Cooperation of Health Services and Systems Research Centers, International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants, International Council for Science, International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering, International Society of Blood Transfusion, International Society of

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB113/23.

Chemotherapy, International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine and Biology.

With regard to reports submitted by the International Ergonomics Association, International Medical Informatics Association and the International Union of Toxicology, the Board noted that efforts to restore planned collaboration had been successful and decided to maintain these NGOs in official relations with WHO.

It was noted that the International Council on Social Welfare's report on efforts to agree a work plan remained outstanding and decided to defer a decision on relations with the Council until the 115th session of the Board.

It was noted that reports of collaboration remained outstanding from the following NGOs: International Academy of Pathology, International Federation on Ageing, International Radiation Protection Association, International Society for Human and Animal Mycology, International Solid Waste Association, International Union of Immunological Societies, World Assembly of Youth, World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation, and the World Federation of Parasitologists. In view of this it was decided to defer the review of relations with these NGOs, and remind them of the requirement to submit reports and inform them that, if the reports are not provided in time for consideration at the Executive Board's 115th session, official relations will be discontinued.

It was noted that relations with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and International League of Association for Rheumatology, also listed in the Annex to the report, were the subject of a resolution.

## ANNEX

**LIST OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS  
REVIEWED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS 113TH SESSION**

African Medical and Research Foundation\*  
Aga Khan Foundation\*<sup>1</sup>  
Association of the Institutes and Schools of Tropical Medicine in Europe\*  
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 Forum for Health Research\*  
Global Health Council\*<sup>1</sup>  
International Academy of Pathology  
International Association of Biologists Technicians\*  
International Association of Cancer Registries\*<sup>1</sup>  
International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants  
International College of Surgeons\*  
International Conference of Deans of French Language Faculties of Medicine\*  
International Council for Science  
International Council for Standardization in Haematology\*  
International Council of Nurses\*<sup>1</sup>  
International Council on Social Welfare  
International Epidemiological Association\*  
International Ergonomics Association  
International Eye Foundation\*  
International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering  
International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science\*<sup>2</sup>  
International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine\*<sup>3</sup>  
International Federation of Health Records Organizations\*  
International Federation of Hospital Engineering\*  
International Federation of Medical Students' Associations\*  
International Federation of Oto-Rhino Laryngological Societies\*  
International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations\*<sup>1</sup>  
International Federation of Surgical Colleges\*  
International Federation on Ageing  
International Hospital Federation\*  
International League of Associations for Rheumatology  
International League of Dermatological Societies\*  
International Medical Informatics Association  
International Medical Parliamentarians Organization\*<sup>1</sup>  
International Organization for Standardization\*  
International Organization of Consumers Union (Consumers International)\*  
International Pharmaceutical Federation\*<sup>1</sup>  
International Radiation Protection Association  
International Society for Burn Injuries\*

International Society for Human and Animal Mycology  
 International Society of Blood Transfusion  
 International Society of Chemotherapy  
 International Society of Haematology\*<sup>1</sup>  
 International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology\*  
 International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists\*  
 International Society of Radiology\*  
 International Solid Waste Association  
 International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease\*  
 International Union of Architects\*  
 International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology\*<sup>4</sup>  
 International Union of Immunological Societies  
 International Union of Local Authorities\*  
 International Union of Microbiological Societies\*  
 International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry  
 International Union of Toxicology  
 Inter-Parliamentary Union  
 Medicus Mundi Internationalis (International Organisation for Cooperation in Health Care)\*  
 OXFAM\*  
 Save the Children Fund\*  
 The International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis Inc.\*  
 The Network: Towards Unity for Health\*<sup>1,5</sup>  
 The World Federation of Acupuncture-Moxibustion Societies\*  
 The World Federation of Parasitologists  
 World Assembly of Youth  
 World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation  
 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 Nuclear Medicine and Biology  
 World Federation of Public Health Associations\*<sup>1</sup>  
 World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists\*  
 World Medical Association\*  
 World Organization of Family Doctors\*<sup>1</sup>  
 World Organization of the Scout Movement\*  
 World Self-Medication Industry\*<sup>1</sup>  
 World Vision International\*<sup>1</sup>

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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 with 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> Bodies with whom WHO regional offices report collaboration.

<sup>2</sup> Previously known as International Association of Medical Laboratory Technologists.

<sup>3</sup> Previously known as International Federation of Clinical Chemistry.

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

<sup>5</sup> Previously known as The Network: Community Partnerships for Health through Innovative Education, Service, and Research.