

## **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,<sup>1</sup> the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations<sup>2</sup> met on 18 January 2011. The Board is invited to consider the proposed draft resolution and decision set out in paragraphs 14 and 15 below.

#### **I. APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION INTO OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO (Restricted documents EB128/NGO/1–3)<sup>3</sup>**

2. The Committee considered three applications for admission into official relations, from Lifting The Burden, Stichting Global Initiative on Psychiatry – an International Foundation for the Promotion of Humane, Ethical, and Effective Mental Health Care throughout the World,<sup>4</sup> and The Cochrane Collaboration.<sup>5</sup> The Committee evaluated the merits of each applicant in order to determine whether, in its view, the nongovernmental organization met the criteria for admission into official relations as set out in paragraph 3 of the above-mentioned Principles.

3. In the case of the applicant named Lifting The Burden, the Committee noted that it had been created in 2009 by organizations that had previously worked with WHO in the same area of work, based on a Memorandum of Understanding dating from 2003. After having been informed of the continuity of collaboration with the newly created organization, the Committee agreed to recommend that Lifting The Burden be admitted into official relations with WHO.

4. In so far as the application from Global Initiative on Psychiatry was concerned, the Committee was of the view that efforts to expand and improve mental health services were important and was pleased to recommend the admission into official relations of this nongovernmental organization.

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<sup>1</sup> *Basic documents*, 47th edition, Geneva, World Health Organization, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Members of the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations: Professor A. Babloyan (Armenia), Professor A.F.M.R. Haque, Chairman, (Bangladesh), Dr A.J. Mohamed, (Oman), Mrs G. A. Gidlow (Samoa), Dr J. Gedeon (Alternate to Dr B. Valentin (Seychelles)).

<sup>3</sup> Transmitted to Executive Board members under cover of a letter numbered L/10.18.

<sup>4</sup> Known as the Global Initiative on Psychiatry.

<sup>5</sup> Restricted documents EB128/NGO/1, EB128/NGO/2, and EB128/NGO/3 respectively.

5. As for the application from The Cochrane Collaboration, while the nongovernmental organization's work was known to the Committee, it requested additional information about The Collaboration's activities relating to clinical trials and its ability to attract large numbers of volunteers. The Committee was pleased to recommend the admission of The Cochrane Collaboration into official relations with WHO.

## **II. REVIEW OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO** (Restricted document EB128/NGO/WP/1)

6. The Committee considered reports on relations with 69 nongovernmental organizations listed in the Annex. 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 ...".

7. The Committee noted collaboration between WHO and 54 nongovernmental organizations and recommended that the Board note with appreciation the contributions of these nongovernmental organizations to the achievement of WHO objectives, commend them for their continuing support, and maintain them in official relations with WHO. Their names are indicated in the Annex by an asterisk.

8. The Committee noted that, for various reasons, implementation of agreed plans for collaboration had not been possible, or that collaboration had apparently lapsed, between WHO and the following nongovernmental organizations: the International Council of Women, La Leche League International, and International Special Dietary Foods Industries. According to the reports there is an interest in re-establishing planned collaboration. The Committee recommended that the Board note the reports and defer the review of relations with these nongovernmental organizations until the 130th session of the Board, and requested the Secretariat to report to the Board at that time on efforts to agree plans for collaboration or, as the case may be, on the status of relations.

9. From the reports, the Committee learnt that in the cases of the Commonwealth Association for Health and Disability, and the International Non Governmental Coalition Against Tobacco, collaboration had not been possible mainly due to major reorganizational changes in the organizations. While Soroptimist International continued to be active in the health field, including disseminating information about the work of WHO, the report indicated that collaboration had ceased. In the absence of an expected report from the World Organization of the Scout Movement, the Secretariat indicated that contact had lapsed during the period under review. In all these cases it was noted that for the future WHO did not expect to seek plans for collaboration. In view of this the Standing Committee recommended that official relations be discontinued with these nongovernmental organizations.

10. The Committee then considered follow-up to the Board's decision EB126(5).<sup>1</sup> The report from the International Association of Hydatid Disease, concerning collaboration during the period 2006–2008, indicated collaboration mainly in the Region of the Americas, however, agreement had been reached on a global plan for collaboration. Likewise the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and the International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth had reported on their agreed plans with the Secretariat. The Committee was satisfied that the agreed plans for collaboration warranted the

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<sup>1</sup> See document EB126/2010/REC/1.

maintenance of these nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO and, accordingly recommended that the Board note the reports and maintain these nongovernmental organizations in official relations.

11. The Committee noted that the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science had changed its focal point for relations with WHO during the previous year, however, exchanges continued in pursuit of agreement of a plan for collaboration. The Committee recommended that the report be noted and the review of relations with the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science be deferred an additional year until the 130th session of the Executive Board.

12. According to the information provided, a response from the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities to invitations to explore the possibility of agreement on a plan for collaboration had not been forthcoming. It was apparent to the Secretariat that there was no basis for collaboration in the immediate future. The Committee understood that, in the absence of a report from the International Organization against Trachoma on its collaboration with WHO during the period 2006–2008, an internal review had been undertaken. This had revealed that, while WHO appreciated the Organization's participation in its technical meetings, WHO did not envisage seeking a plan for collaboration. The Committee, recalling that the basis of an official relationship is a mutually agreed plan for collaboration, recommended that official relations with the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities and the International Organization against Trachoma be discontinued.

13. The Committee reviewed reports concerning follow-up action taken in connection with resolution EB126.R17 concerning the Association of the Institutes and Schools of Tropical Medicine in Europe and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. These nongovernmental organizations were informed of the decision to suspend relations and invited to submit reports on their collaboration or status of relations. According to the information provided, no response was forthcoming from the Association of the Institutes and Schools of Tropical Medicine in Europe. The Secretariat further understood from informal enquiries that the Association had no interest in a formal relationship with WHO. In response to an expression of interest in revitalizing the relations, the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources was provided with a contact in the Secretariat. According to the report there was no follow-up. The Committee recommended that the reports be noted and official relations be discontinued with the Association of the Institutes and Schools of Tropical Medicine in Europe and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

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

#### **14. Draft resolution**

The Executive Board,

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

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB128/28.

1. DECIDES to admit into official relations with WHO, Lifting The Burden; Stichting Global Initiative on Psychiatry – an International Foundation for the Promotion of Humane, Ethical, and Effective Mental Health Care; and The Cochrane Collaboration;
2. DECIDES to discontinue official relations with the Association of the Institutes and Schools of Tropical Medicine in Europe; Commonwealth Association for Health and Disability; International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities; International Non Governmental Coalition Against Tobacco; International Organization against Trachoma; International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources; Soroptimist International; and the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

**15. 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 Organizations<sup>1</sup> concerning the review of one third of the nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO, and follow up to decision EB126(5) and resolution EB126.R17, 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 reports concerning their relations with WHO, the Board decided to defer the review of relations with the International Council of Women, La Leche League International and the International Special Dietary Foods Industries, until its 130th session, and to request, as appropriate, a clarification of the status of relations and reports on the outcome of efforts to agree plans for collaboration, the results of which should be reported to the Board at its 130th session.

Noting the successful efforts to agree plans of collaboration, the Board decided to maintain in official relations with WHO the International Association of Hydatid Disease, the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, and the International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth.

Noting that exchanges continued with regard to agreement on a plan for collaboration, the Board decided to defer the review of relations with the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science one additional year. The review of relations would be submitted to the Board at its 130th session.

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB128/28.

## ANNEX

**LIST OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS  
WITH WHO REVIEWED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS 128TH SESSION**

Alzheimer's Disease International\*  
Association of the Institutes and Schools of Tropical Medicine in Europe  
Commonwealth Association for Health and Disability  
Corporate Accountability International\*  
European Generic Medicines Association\*  
Family Health International\*  
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 for the Study of Obesity\*  
International Association of Hydatid Disease  
International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities  
International Bureau for Epilepsy\*  
International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development\*  
International Commission on Occupational Health\*  
International Confederation of Midwives\*  
International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders\*  
International Council of Women  
International Ergonomics Association\*  
International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science  
International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International)\*  
International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine  
International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics\*  
International Federation on Ageing\*  
International Lactation Consultant Association\*  
International League Against Epilepsy\*  
International Network of Women Against Tobacco\*  
International Non Governmental Coalition Against Tobacco  
International Occupational Hygiene Association\*  
International Organization Against Trachoma  
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 for Telemedicine & eHealth  
International Society of Andrology\*  
International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine\*  
International Special Dietary Foods Industries  
International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

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\*  
 La Leche League International  
 Medical Women's International Association\*  
 MSF International\*  
 Multiple Sclerosis International Federation\*  
 Rehabilitation International\*  
 Soroptimist International  
 Stichting Health Action International\*  
 The International Alliance of Women: Equal Rights-Equal Responsibilities\*  
 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 Organization of the Scout Movement  
 World Psychiatric Association\*

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\* Based on reports of collaboration for the period under review 2008–2010, the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations recommended the maintenance of 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.