

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,¹ the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations² met on 27 January 2015. The Board is invited to consider the proposed draft resolution and decision set out in paragraphs 15 and 16 below.

I APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION INTO OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO (Documents EB136/NGO/1–13)³

2. The Committee considered applications for admission into official relations from International Epidemiological Association, Alliance for Health Promotion, Medicines for Malaria Venture, International Society of Audiology, Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics, World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies, Global Medical Technology Alliance, Humatem, International Organization for Medical Physics, RAD-AID International, Health Technology Assessment international, Global Diagnostic Imaging, Healthcare IT and Radiation Therapy Trade Association, and Tropical Health and Education Trust.⁴ The Committee evaluated the merits of each applicant in order to determine whether, in its view, the nongovernmental organizations met the criteria for admission into official relations as set out in paragraph 3 of the above-mentioned Principles.

3. The Secretariat provided supplementary information for each application. In some cases, additional clarification and reassurances were sought. With respect to the application from Alliance for Health Promotion, the Committee sought clarifications on the human and financial capacity of the organization to contribute to the work of WHO. In response to these concerns, the Committee was assured that the scope of the Alliance's work was global, given the wide reach enjoyed by the organization through its member organizations, which have member associations all around the world. Through its meetings and conferences, the Alliance is able to bring participants and views from different stakeholders from many different countries that enrich the work of WHO. Furthermore, as concerns the human resources of the organization, it was explained that the work of many

¹ Basic documents, 48th ed. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2014, pp. 97–102.

² Dr Richard Nchabi Kamwi (Namibia) (Chair), Dr Gazmend Bejtja (Albania), Dr Walid Ammar (Lebanon), Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah (alternate to Dr S. Subramaniam) (Malaysia), and Dr Reina Gisela Roa Rodriguez (Panama).

³ Transmitted to Executive Board members under cover of a letter dated 12 December 2014 and numbered L/14.14.

⁴ Documents EB136/NGO/1, EB136/NGO/2, EB136/NGO/3, EB136/NGO/4, EB136/NGO/5, EB136/NGO/6, EB136/NGO/7, EB136/NGO/8, EB136/NGO/9, EB136/NGO/10, EB136/NGO/11, EB136/NGO/12 and EB136/NGO/13, respectively.

nongovernmental organizations is based on the input from the volunteers, as well as the work of its member organizations.

4. During discussions on the application from the Global Medical Technology Alliance, a clarification was offered concerning its membership, which consists of representatives of regional or national trade associations. The representatives in turn represent the medical technology industries in their geographical areas. The primary objective of the Alliance is not profit making. The main area of the Alliance's collaboration with WHO concerns the development of ethical codes for procurement and tendering, which will be promoted through the Alliance member associations in countries. The Committee was assured that a review of the relations with the Alliance, if admitted into official relations, as for all nongovernmental organizations in official relations, will take place every three years, which will also provide an opportunity to review any concerns that might arise.

5. When discussing the application from RAD-AID International, the Committee received the clarification that the organization is not a membership organization in the sense of having individual members. The Committee noted that the organization has a Board of Directors that exercises voting rights in overseeing the affairs of the organization. The Committee agreed that all the criteria for admission into official relations were met and asked the Secretariat to obtain clarification from the organization regarding the transparent exercise of voting rights.

6. Based on the information provided, the Committee concluded that International Epidemiological Association; Alliance for Health Promotion; Medicines for Malaria Venture; International Society of Audiology; Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics; World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies; Global Medical Technology Alliance; Humatem; International Organization for Medical Physics; RAD-AID International; Health Technology Assessment international; Global Diagnostic Imaging, Healthcare IT and Radiation Therapy Trade Association; and Tropical Health and Education Trust met the criteria for admission into official relations and recommended that they be admitted into official relations with WHO. In addition, in reference to nongovernmental organizations with limited human and financial resources, the Committee asked the Secretariat to ensure that in the future any nongovernmental organization under consideration for official relations status is able to effectively contribute to the work of WHO.

II. REVIEW OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO (Document EB136/NGO/WP/1)

7. The Committee considered reports on relations with 61 nongovernmental organizations presented in the document before it. The reports on relations 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 ...".

8. The Committee reviewed reports on collaboration during the period 2012–2014 and on the plans for collaboration for the period 2015–2017 between WHO and 57 nongovernmental organizations, and recommended that the Board commend 56 of these nongovernmental organizations for their

continuing contributions to the achievement of WHO objectives, and maintain them in official relations with WHO. The 56 nongovernmental organizations are listed in the Annex.¹

9. At the request of a Committee member, the Committee then discussed the relations with International Life Sciences Institute. Although the collaboration itself had proved beneficial and the plan for collaboration for the next collaboration period had been agreed upon, the Committee was concerned that a member company of one of the Institute's branches was reportedly owned by a company that manufactures and sells tobacco. It was brought to the attention of the Committee that the Institute had informed the Secretariat on 19 January 2015 that the International Life Sciences Institute Board of Trustees had unanimously amended its bylaws on 17 January 2015 to state that the Institute will not allow companies or affiliates of companies that manufacture, produce, market, sell or distribute tobacco products. The International Life Sciences Institute explained that this meant that the company referred to will no longer be able to be a member. The Committee noted this information but it indicated that in its view, given that the amendment of the bylaws had been made only very recently, following the publication of document EB136/NGO/WP/1, the Institute had not been fully transparent in its relations with WHO. The Committee also noted that the amendment to the bylaws had been made only a few days earlier, and no further evidence of their actual implementation was made available; thus, it was not possible to verify that the necessary change had been implemented. Based on these concerns, the Committee decided to recommend that official relations be discontinued with the International Life Sciences Institute.

10. The Committee proceeded to review individual reports concerning relations with organizations with which relations had changed during the period under review.

11. The Committee considered the review of relations with three organizations deferred by the Executive Board in decision EB134(7),² pending agreement on plans for collaboration or a report of the status of relations. The organizations concerned were the International Union for Health Promotion and Education, the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices affecting the Health of Women and Children, and the World Psychiatric Association.

12. With regard to these organizations, the Committee reviewed the reports and was satisfied that the agreed plans for collaboration as submitted to the Secretariat warranted the maintenance of these nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO. The Committee agreed to make a recommendation to the Board to that effect.

13. The Committee then considered the review of CMC – Churches' Action for Health, which had also been deferred by the Executive Board at its 134th session.³

14. With regard to CMC – Churches' Action for Health, the review of the organization's relations with WHO had been deferred by the Executive Board at its 134th session for a second time, as the relevant constitutional and institutional arrangements had not yet been clarified. The World Council of Churches had at the time provided information that the Council was undergoing organizational restructure, which affected the status of CMC – Churches' Action for Health. The Committee was now pleased to learn that the tenth Assembly of the World Council of Churches had decided to fully

¹ The International Life Sciences Institute was not included in the final selection.

² Document EB134/2014/REC/1.

³ See decision EB134(7).

incorporate CMC – Churches’ Action for Health, including its name, into the World Council of Churches in order to place the work on health clearly within the Council’s remit. It also noted that the Council had agreed a plan for collaboration with WHO. Based on this information, the Committee recommends to the Executive Board that CMC – Churches’ Action for Health be maintained in official relations with WHO under its official parent entity’s name of World Council of Churches.

III. PROPOSED DRAFT RESOLUTION AND DRAFT DECISION

15. Draft resolution

The Executive Board,

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

1. DECIDES to admit into official relations with WHO the following nongovernmental organizations: International Epidemiological Association; Alliance for Health Promotion; Medicines for Malaria Venture; International Society of Audiology; Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics; World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies; Global Medical Technology Alliance; Humatem; International Organization for Medical Physics; RAD-AID International; Health Technology Assessment international; Global Diagnostic Imaging, Healthcare IT and Radiation Therapy Trade Association; and Tropical Health and Education Trust;
2. FURTHER DECIDES to discontinue official relations with the International Life Sciences Institute.

16. 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 concerning the review of one third of the nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO,¹ and follow-up to decision EB134(7), decided the following:

- (1) noting with appreciation their collaboration with WHO and commending their continuing dedication to the work of WHO, the Board decided to maintain in official relations with WHO the 56 nongovernmental organizations whose names are listed in the Annex to document EB136/40;
- (2) noting also that plans for collaboration had been agreed, decided to maintain in official relations with WHO the International Union for Health Promotion and Education, the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices affecting the Health of Women and Children, and the World Psychiatric Association;
- (3) noting also that the CMC – Churches’ Action for Health had been incorporated into the World Council of Churches and that it now operates as World Council of Churches, and further noting that a plan for collaboration had been agreed, decided to maintain CMC – Churches’ Action for Health in official relations with WHO under the name World Council of Churches.

¹ Document EB136/40.

ANNEX

List of nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO, reviewed by the Executive Board at its 136th session and maintained in official relations with WHO:

1. Caritas Internationalis
2. CBM
3. CropLife International
4. European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals
5. European Society for Medical Oncology
6. FDI World Dental Federation
7. Helen Keller International
8. International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness
9. International AIDS Society
10. International Air Transport Association
11. International Association for Dental Research
12. International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care Inc.
13. International Association for the Study of Pain
14. International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics
15. International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research
16. International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection
17. International Commission on Radiological Protection
18. International Council of Ophthalmology
19. International Diabetes Federation
20. International Eye Foundation
21. International Federation of Oto-Rhino-Laryngological Societies
22. International Leprosy Association
23. International Medical Corps
24. International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research
25. International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety
26. International Society for Environmental Epidemiology
27. International Society of Doctors for the Environment
28. International Society of Nephrology
29. International Solid Waste Association
30. International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections
31. International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease
32. International Union of Immunological Societies
33. International Union of Toxicology
34. March of Dimes Foundation
35. Organisation pour la Prévention de la Cécité
36. Project ORBIS International, Inc.
37. Rotary International
38. Stichting Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+)
39. Thalassaemia International Federation
40. The Global Alliance for Rabies Control, Inc.
41. The International Association of Lions Clubs
42. The International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations
43. The Royal Commonwealth Society for Blind (Sightsavers)

44. The Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance
45. Union for International Cancer Control
46. WaterAid
47. World Blind Union
48. World Council of Optometry
49. World Federation of Hemophilia
50. World Federation of Hydrotherapy and Climatotherapy
51. World Heart Federation
52. World Hepatitis Alliance
53. World Hypertension League
54. World Plumbing Council
55. World Stroke Organization
56. World Veterinary Association

Nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO whose relations had been deferred by the Executive Board at its 134th session and are maintained in official relations by the Executive Board at its 136th Session

1. International Union for Health Promotion and Education
2. Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices affecting the Health of Women and Children
3. World Psychiatric Association
4. CMC – Churches' Action for Health under the name World Council of Churches

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