

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 organizations¹ the Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations² met on 26 January 2016. 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 EB138/NGO/1–5)³

2. The Committee considered applications for admission into official relations from Action Contre la Faim International, Pasteur International Network Association, Micronutrient Initiative, International Food Policy Research Institute and World Cancer Research Fund International.⁴ The Committee evaluated the merits of each applicant in order to determine whether, in its view, the nongovernmental organizations met the specific criteria for admission into official relations as set out in paragraph 3 of the above-mentioned Principles.

3. During the meeting the Committee sought clarifications on the process of assessing the eligibility of nongovernmental organizations for official relations and on the due diligence conducted on them. The steps taken for due diligence were described and the Committee was assured that, in addition to due diligence, risk assessment was performed on each application as well as on each of the nongovernmental organizations under review. The Committee commented on the transparency of the information concerning nongovernmental organizations in the WHO register of non-State actors.

4. The Secretariat provided supplementary information for each application. In some cases additional clarification and reassurances were sought. With respect to the application from Action Contre la Faim International, the Committee sought further information concerning the previous work of the organization and how WHO benefits from collaboration. In response, the Committee was informed that Action Contre la Faim International intervenes in emergencies and in low-income countries that require support for management of severe or moderate malnutrition. The organization works on case identification, establishes therapeutic feeding centres and provides supplies. Past

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

² Dr Gazmend Bejtja (Albania) (Chair), Mr Sylvain Segard (Canada), Dr Bernard Haufiku (Namibia), Dr Assad Hafeez (Pakistan), and Ms Frances Rose Elgo-Mamaril (Philippines).

³ Transmitted to Executive Board members under cover of a letter dated 18 January 2016 and numbered L/16.1.

⁴ Documents EB138/NGO/1, EB138/NGO/2, EB138/NGO/3, EB138/NGO/4 and EB138/NGO/5, respectively.

collaboration with WHO consisted of providing feedback on the implementation of WHO's protocols in the field and information on the coverage of interventions. In the future, the organization envisages expanding this work, as well as providing input for WHO's manual for management of acute malnutrition, building capacities at country level for integrated inpatient care, and implementing the global monitoring framework on maternal, infant and young child nutrition.

5. While discussing the application from the Pasteur International Network Association it was indicated that the Association consists of 29 individual Pasteur institutes, which are all legally independent entities, including the Institut Pasteur in Paris. In response to the query on the collaboration with the Association, the Committee learnt that WHO has collaborated with several of the individual members of the association, but the purpose of the collaboration with the Association is to elevate the discussion to a more strategic level, to bring more coherence to the technical collaboration and, at the same time, to determine which are the strategic areas where WHO and the Association can collaborate.

6. When discussing the application from Micronutrient Initiative, which has its headquarters in Canada and receives a large proportion of its funding from the Canadian government, the Committee Member from Canada informed the Committee that while he has no part in those funding decisions, to avoid any perceived conflict of interest in considering the application, he would abstain from considering the application. The Committee was informed, in response to a query, that in assessing the organization's eligibility, WHO did not engage with financial contributors to the organization. With respect to the application from the International Food Policy Research Institute, the Committee was provided with clarifications on the administrative structure and governance of the Institute.

7. In considering the application from the World Cancer Research Fund International the Committee was provided with clarification on the international nature of the organization and its activities. The Fund is a confederation of different national organizations with formal affiliates in four countries with a network reaching many other countries. The main responsibility of the Fund is to promote and fund research on different sources of cancer but it is also involved in advocacy through supporting WHO guidelines and policies throughout the world. It also works with WHO in the analysis of country policies to assess if they are in line with cancer prevention policies.

8. Based on the information provided, the Committee concluded that Action Contre la Faim International, Pasteur International Network Association, Micronutrient Initiative, International Food Policy Research Institute, and World Cancer Research Fund International met the criteria for admission into official relations and recommended that they be admitted into official relations with WHO.

II. REVIEW OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO (Document EB138/NGO/WP/1)

9. The Committee considered reports on relations during 2013–2015 which covered 64 nongovernmental organizations in official relations. 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 ...".

10. The Committee reviewed reports on collaboration during the period 2013–2015 and on the plans for collaboration for the period 2016–2018 between WHO and 57 nongovernmental organizations, and recommended that the Board commend those 57 nongovernmental organizations for their continuing

contributions to the achievement of WHO objectives, and maintain them in official relations with WHO. The 57 are those listed in the Annex under the heading “List of Nongovernmental Organizations in Official Relations reviewed by the Executive Board at its 138th session: Nongovernmental organizations maintained in official relations with WHO”.

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

12. The Committee then considered reports from the Aga-Khan Foundation, the International Organization for Standardization and The Commonwealth Pharmacists Association. For a variety of reasons, as set out in the document EB138/NGO/WP/1, there had been a break in communication between these organizations and WHO, and collaboration with the organizations during 2013–2015 had lapsed. In all cases it was expected that collaboration based on mutually agreed three-year plans for collaboration could be resumed. The Committee was pleased to learn of this and decided, in order to encourage the successful conclusion of discussions concerning plans for collaboration, to recommend the deferral of the review of relations with the three nongovernmental organizations until the 140th session of the Executive Board, at which time reports should be presented to the Board either on the agreed plans for collaboration or on the status of relations.

13. In the case of International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science, International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, and World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, the Committee was provided with an update to the report concerning relations with the three organizations. The technical unit that had been responsible for these nongovernmental organizations, had reported that no activities had taken place and that future collaboration was not within the scope of the work of that technical unit and that it was proposed that official relations be discontinued. Subsequently, a different technical unit had started collaborating with these nongovernmental organizations on defining the procedures in clinical laboratory and pathology and medical devices required for diagnosis, especially for noncommunicable diseases, with work done in the last year focusing on cancer diagnosis, which had not been reported during the review process. Future work will involve other noncommunicable diseases and the selection of priority medical devices. The technical unit concerned considers that pathology, clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine are key areas for supporting the diagnostics of diseases, and are therefore relevant to the work of WHO. For this reason, the unit is in favour of continuing relations with the nongovernmental organizations. In view of the additional information provided and of the reported relevance of the relations for the work on medical devices, and in order to encourage improved collaboration in the area of pathology and laboratory, the Committee decided to recommend the deferral of the review of relations with International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science, International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, and World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine until the 140th session of the Executive Board, at which time reports, either on agreed plans for collaboration or on the status of relations would be considered.

14. The report concerning the relations with the International League of Dermatological Societies was considered. The Committee noted that the report submitted by this organization showed collaboration with several technical units at WHO. The technical units had reported that the collaboration had been satisfactory but none of them considered dermatological conditions as a priority in their areas of work, and on the rare occasions when there were opportunities for work on dermatological conditions, the work in question was not of the substantive, continuous type that is required when a nongovernmental organization is in official relations. The technical units did not see any scope for continuing the collaboration and official relations in the future. In view of this, the Committee agreed to recommend that official relations be discontinued with the International League of Dermatological Societies.

III. PROPOSED DRAFT RESOLUTION AND 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: Action Contre la Faim International, Pasteur International Network Association, Micronutrient Initiative, International Food Policy Research Institute, and World Cancer Research Fund International;

2. FURTHER DECIDES to discontinue official relations with the International League of Dermatological Societies.

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 reached the decisions set out below:

(1) 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 57 nongovernmental organizations whose names are listed in the Annex to document EB138/48;

(2) noting the reports and that plans for collaboration have yet to be agreed, the Board decided to defer the review of relations with the Aga-Khan Foundation, the International Organization for Standardization and The Commonwealth Pharmacists Association, until the 140th session of the Executive Board, at which time reports, either on agreed plans for collaboration or the status of relations, would be considered;

(3) noting the reports, and in order to encourage improved collaboration in the area of pathology and laboratory medicine between WHO and the nongovernmental organizations, the Board decided to defer the review of relations with International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science, International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine, and World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine until the 140th session of the Executive Board at which time reports should be presented to the Board either on the agreed plans for collaboration or on the status of relations.

¹ Document EB138/48.

ANNEX

**LIST OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS
REVIEWED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS 138TH SESSION**

Nongovernmental organizations maintained in official relations with WHO

1. African Medical and Research Foundation
2. Assiteb-Biorif
3. Consumers International
4. Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences
5. Council on Health Research for Development
6. EuroSafe – European Association for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion
7. Framework Convention Alliance on Tobacco Control
8. Global Health Council, Inc.
9. International Alliance for Biological Standardization
10. International Alliance of Patients' Organizations
11. International Association of Cancer Registries
12. International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants
13. International College of Surgeons
14. International Council for Standardization in Haematology
15. International Council of Nurses
16. International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering
17. International Federation of Fertility Societies
18. International Federation of Health Information Management Associations
19. International Federation of Hospital Engineering
20. International Federation of Medical Students' Associations
21. International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations
22. International Federation of Surgical Colleges
23. International Hospital Federation
24. International Life Saving Federation
25. International Medical Informatics Association
26. International Pharmaceutical Federation
27. International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation
28. International Society for Telemedicine & eHealth
29. International Society of Blood Transfusion
30. International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology
31. International Society of Radiology
32. International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis
33. International Union of Architects (UIA)
34. International Union of Microbiological Societies
35. International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology
36. International Water Association
37. Medicus Mundi International – International Organisation for Cooperation in Health Care
38. OXFAM
39. The Cochrane Collaboration
40. The International Society for Burn Injuries
41. The International Society for Quality in Health Care Incorporated
42. The International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists
43. The Network: Towards Unity For Health
44. The Save the Children Fund

45. The Transplantation Society
46. The World Medical Association, Inc
47. World Council of Churches
48. World Federation for Medical Education
49. World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology
50. World Federation of Acupuncture-Moxibustion Societies
51. World Federation of Chiropractic
52. World Federation of Public Health Associations
53. World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists
54. World Organization of Family Doctors
55. World Self-Medication Industry
56. World Vision International
57. Worldwide Network for Blood and Marrow Transplantation

Nongovernmental Organizations in Official Relations whose relations were deferred to be reviewed by the Executive Board at its 140th session

1. Aga Khan Foundation
2. International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science
3. International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine
4. International Organization for Standardization
5. The Commonwealth Pharmacists Association
6. World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

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