
Engagement with non-State actors

Non-State actors in official relations with WHO

Report by the Director-General

1. “Official relations” is a privilege that the Executive Board may grant to nongovernmental organizations, international business associations and philanthropic foundations that have had and continue to have a sustained and systematic engagement in the interest of the Organization. The aims and activities of all these entities shall be in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of WHO’s Constitution, and they shall contribute significantly to the advancement of public health.¹
2. In accordance with the provisions of the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors,² entities in official relations with WHO are international in membership and/or scope, have a constitution or similar basic document, an established headquarters, a governing body, an administrative structure and a regularly updated entry in the WHO Register of non-State actors, through which such entities provide all the necessary information on their nature and activities.
3. Official relations are based on a plan for collaboration between WHO and the non-State actor, which contains agreed objectives and outlines activities for the coming three-year period, and which is structured in accordance with the General Programme of Work and Programme budget and is consistent with the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors. These plans shall be free from concerns which are primarily of a commercial or profit-making nature.
4. In accordance with the provisions of the Framework, the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board, during the January session of the Board, is mandated to consider applications from and review collaboration with non-State actors in official relations and shall make recommendations to the Board on: proposals for admitting non-State actors into official relations; the desirability of maintaining the official relations with non-State actors; proposals for the deferral of reviews; and proposals for the suspension or discontinuation of official relations.
5. In order to support the Executive Board in fulfilling its mandate on official relations, the Secretariat assessed applications from non-State actors for admission into official relations, and those non-State actors set to undergo their triennial review for consideration by the Board at its 152nd session. In line with the Framework, due diligence and risk assessment were performed on each non-State actor, and entries in the WHO Register of non-State actors were verified, together with the relevant supporting

¹ The provisions are set out in paragraphs 50–66 of the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (document WHA69/2016/REC/1, Annex 5, Overarching Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors).

² Adopted by the Health Assembly in resolution WHA69.10 (2016).

documentation provided. As part of this exercise, past collaboration with WHO was assessed and the jointly agreed plans for collaboration for the coming three years (2023–2025)¹ were reviewed.

APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION INTO OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO

6. The Secretariat reviewed applications for admission into official relations from non-State actors to ensure that the established criteria and other requirements set out in the Framework, including due diligence, were fulfilled. As a result of the review, the Secretariat considered that the applications from the following two entities fulfilled the established eligibility criteria, and they are therefore presented for the consideration of the Board: The Carter Center, Inc. and NCD Alliance.

7. These entities have completed their entries in the WHO Register of non-State actors. A summary of each applying entity, describing their engagement with WHO over the past three years and the collaboration planned for the next three years is contained in Annex 1 to this report.¹

A. Action proposed to the Board: Consider The Carter Center, Inc. and NCD Alliance for admission into official relations with WHO.

TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THE COLLABORATION WITH NON-STATE ACTORS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO

8. The review of collaboration with non-State actors during the period 2020–2022 covered 65 entities. Two additional entities whose review was deferred following the decision of the Board at its 150th session were also considered.² The Secretariat has examined both their past and proposed plans for collaboration, as well as the updated entries in the WHO Register of non-State actors.

9. The Secretariat proposes that the Board renew official relations for 62 of the 67 non-State actors reviewed. A list is provided in Annex 2 to this report.

B. Action proposed to the Board: Commend the 62 non-State actors listed in Annex 2 for their continuing contribution to the achievement of WHO's objectives and renew their official relations with WHO.

10. On the basis of the review undertaken, and in order not to compromise the existing collaboration with non-State actors, the Secretariat proposes to the Board that one entity should be considered for deferral of the decision on its review to the 154th session of the Board in January 2024.

11. **International Rescue Committee, Inc.** The Secretariat has approached International Rescue Committee seeking clarification on its acceptance of a contribution from an entity that is not at arm's length from the tobacco industry to support International Rescue Committee's global COVID-19 emergency response in 2020. Accepting such a donation constitutes non-compliance with paragraph 44 of the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors. International Rescue Committee confirmed that the acceptance was the result of an oversight, has promptly reviewed and updated its policies and

¹ Collaboration plans are available in the WHO Register of non-State actors (<https://publicspace.who.int/sites/GEM/default.aspx#>), including the collaboration plans for the non-State actors for which the review was deferred by one year, in accordance with decision EB150(13) (2022). The collaboration plans of the entities concerned cover the period 2023–2024.

² Decision EB150(13) (2022) deferred the decision on the review of two non-State actors until the 152nd session of the Board. The collaboration plans of the entities concerned cover the period 2023–2024.

processes to strengthen its internal due diligence, and committed to take all the necessary actions to ensure that such a situation does not reoccur. This has affected the ability of the Secretariat to conduct the triennial review of this non-State actor. It has been agreed that a deferral of the review would allow the Secretariat to assess the actions taken by International Rescue Committee on the matter and to consider future collaboration.

C. Action proposed to the Board: Consider the deferral¹ of the decision on the review of International Rescue Committee, Inc. to the 154th session of the Board.

12. Based on the review undertaken, the Secretariat proposes that four entities should be considered for discontinuation of their official relations with WHO.

13. **Health On the Net Foundation.** The entity has informed the Secretariat that it will terminate its operations. Therefore, it has not submitted an application for renewal of its official relations with WHO.

14. **International Association of Cancer Registries.** In view of the administrative arrangements of the entity's secretariat, it has been jointly agreed that the conditions for official relations are no longer applicable. Opportunities for engagement will be pursued in the context of the current status of the entity.

15. **International Insulin Foundation.** Although joint activities have been conducted in the past, potential areas for further collaboration have not been identified for the coming period and it has thus been challenging to develop a comprehensive joint plan for collaboration. Further opportunities for engagement will be explored with the entity.

16. **International Women's Health Coalition Inc.** The International Women's Health Coalition Inc. has informed the Secretariat that it has merged with the Center for Health and Global Equity and the International Planned Parenthood Federation Western Hemisphere Region. The merger affected the entity's original governance, structure and funding. Future opportunities for engagement may be explored with the new entity.

D. Action proposed to the Board: Consider discontinuing official relations with Health On the Net Foundation, International Association of Cancer Registries, International Insulin Foundation and International Women's Health Coalition Inc.

UPDATES ON NON-STATE ACTORS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS

17. **International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics** has notified the Secretariat of its change of name to International Association of Communication Sciences and Disorders as from 11 November 2021. The entity has submitted the corresponding evidence and documentation and the Secretariat will proceed in changing the name in its records.

¹ If granted, the deferral of the decision does not affect the triennial review cycle. The triennial review of this non-State actor will take place at the 154th session of the Board, in January 2024.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

18. The Board is invited to consider the following draft decision:

The Executive Board, having examined and noted the report on Engagement with non-State actors: non-State actors in official relations with WHO,

(1) Decided:

(a) to admit into official relations with WHO the following non-State actors: The Carter Center, Inc. and NCD Alliance;

(b) to discontinue official relations with Health On the Net Foundation, International Association of Cancer Registries, International Insulin Foundation and International Women's Health Coalition Inc.;

(2) Noted with appreciation the collaboration with WHO of the non-State actors listed in Annex 2 to document EB152/40, commended their continuing contribution to the work of WHO, and decided to renew them in official relations with WHO;

(3) Further noted that the plan for collaboration with International Rescue Committee, Inc. has yet to be agreed, and decided to defer the review of relations with this entity until the 154th session of the Board in January 2024, at which time a report should be presented to the Board on the agreed plan for collaboration and on the status of relations.

ANNEX 1

PROPOSED APPLICATIONS OF NON-STATE ACTORS FOR ADMISSION INTO OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO**The Carter Center, Inc.**

1. The Carter Center, Inc. is a nongovernmental organization established in 1982, based in the United States of America. The entity seeks to strengthen necessary skills, knowledge and access to resources to improve health, prevent and resolve conflicts, and enhance freedom and democracy. The Carter Center, Inc. emphasizes action and measurable results in the lives of the people it aims to support.
2. The entity is governed by a board of trustees comprised primarily of members with backgrounds in academic institutions and private sector entities. Its sources of funding include contributions from the public and individuals, governmental entities, nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions, philanthropic foundations, and private sector entities.

Activities carried out with WHO during the period 2020–2022

3. The Carter Center, Inc. has supported WHO's efforts to combat neglected tropical diseases, mainstream neglected tropical disease programmes, and promote cross-sectoral coordination of activities on neglected tropical diseases. In addition to its technical and operational support in the eradication of dracunculiasis, the entity has also contributed to WHO's work on eliminating onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis, trachoma and schistosomiasis.
4. The entity has also supported WHO in strengthening data collection, analysis, research, and scientific understanding of neglected tropical diseases, contributing to the implementation of WHO's strategies and action plans across areas, including the WHO SAFE (surgery, antibiotics, facial cleanliness, environmental improvement) strategy, and to the attainment of the mental health targets in WHO's road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030.

Planned collaborative activities with WHO for the period 2023–2025

5. The three-year plan for collaboration builds on previous collaboration by supporting WHO's activities in neglected tropical diseases, mental health, malaria, antimicrobial resistance, and data and analytics. The entity will continue to support WHO on research, data collection and analysis, and capacity-building towards implementation of WHO's Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019–2025 and, in particular, its strategic priorities of achieving universal health coverage and promoting healthier populations.
6. This collaboration seeks to further contribute to the implementation of WHO road maps, action plans and activities, including the road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030, the comprehensive mental health action plan 2013–2030, and WHO's activities to combat antimicrobial resistance and to strengthen data and analytics.

NCD Alliance

7. NCD Alliance is a nongovernmental organization legally registered in Switzerland since 2017. The entity is an advocate for the cross-cutting nature of common risk factors of noncommunicable diseases, including unhealthy diets, harmful use of alcohol, tobacco smoking, air pollution and physical inactivity, as well as for systemic solutions for chronic noncommunicable diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic lung disease, diabetes, mental health and neurological disorders.

8. The entity is a member-based organization, governed by a multidisciplinary board of directors. Its sources of funding comprise grants and donations from government entities, nongovernment organizations, philanthropic foundations and private sector entities, as well as membership fees.

Activities carried out with WHO during the period 2020–2022

9. NCD Alliance has supported WHO's work on the delivery of WHO's Global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2030. The entity has contributed to WHO's capacity-building efforts, raising awareness and amplifying voices in support of universal health coverage for people living with and affected by noncommunicable diseases, including in the context of pandemic preparedness and response and health emergencies.

10. NCD Alliance has also gathered and provided technical inputs to inform WHO's work on the design and implementation of noncommunicable disease-related policies and actions, including towards the achievement of related targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, and has supported WHO in the tracking and analysis of global and national progress to reach noncommunicable disease goals and objectives.

Planned collaborative activities with WHO for the period 2023–2025

11. The three-year plan for collaboration supports WHO's work towards fulfilling the goals and objectives set in the Global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2030, as well as on the integration of noncommunicable disease prevention and control within health emergency preparedness and response activities. Planned collaborative activities include the provision of technical input, capacity-building, advocacy and awareness-raising, in order to help to track progress in tackling noncommunicable diseases.

12. NCD Alliance will also support WHO in its efforts to strengthen global and country capacity on assessing noncommunicable disease trends, progress, and potential resources to facilitate the promotion and implementation of noncommunicable disease policies and legislation to reduce exposure to the major noncommunicable disease risk factors across the life course.

ANNEX 2

**NON-STATE ACTORS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS UNDERGOING
A TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF THEIR COLLABORATION WITH WHO**

1. Alzheimer's Disease International
2. American Society for Reproductive Medicine
3. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
4. Clinton Health Access Initiative, Inc.
5. Corporate Accountability
6. Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative
7. Family Health International
8. Fundación Anesvad
9. Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
10. Grand Challenges Canada
11. Handicap International Federation
12. HelpAge International
13. International Association for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions
14. International Association for Suicide Prevention
15. International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities
16. International Baby Food Action Network
17. International Bureau for Epilepsy
18. International Commission on Occupational Health
19. International Committee for Monitoring Assisted Reproductive Technologies
20. International Confederation of Midwives
21. International Council for Commonality in Blood Banking Automation Inc.
22. International Ergonomics Association
23. International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics
24. International Federation on Ageing
25. International Lactation Consultant Association
26. International League against Epilepsy
27. International Network of Women Against Tobacco
28. International Pediatric Association
29. International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War
30. International Planned Parenthood Federation
31. International Psycho-Oncology Society
32. International Society for Biomedical Research on Alcoholism
33. International Society of Andrology

34. International Spinal Cord Society
35. International Union for Health Promotion and Education
36. International Union of Nutritional Sciences
37. International Union of Psychological Science
38. IntraHealth International, Inc
39. Iodine Global Network
40. Italian Association Friends of Raoul Follereau
41. Knowledge Ecology International
42. Lifting the Burden
43. Médecins Sans Frontières International
44. Medical Women's International Association
45. Medicines Patent Pool Foundation
46. Multiple Sclerosis International Federation
47. Stichting Health Action International
48. The Albert B. Sabin Vaccine Institute, Inc.
49. The Fred Hollows Foundation
50. The International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics
51. The International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
52. The Population Council, Inc.
53. World Association for Sexual Health
54. World Association of Echinococcosis
55. World Confederation for Physical Therapy
56. World Federation for Mental Health
57. World Federation of Neurology
58. World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies
59. World Federation of Occupational Therapists
60. World Federation of the Deaf
61. World Obesity Federation
62. World Psychiatric Association

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