

Participation of the Holy See in the World Health Organization

The Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly,

Recalling that the Holy See has been regularly attending the sessions of the Health Assembly as an Observer since 1953;

Recalling also that the Holy See has been regularly attending the sessions of the Executive Board as an Observer;

Recalling further that the Holy See has been a Permanent Observer State at the United Nations since 1964 and that its rights and privileges of participation in the General Assembly as well as in other meetings and conferences of the United Nations were specified by United Nations General Assembly resolution 58/314 of 1 July 2003;

Noting that the Holy See enjoys membership in various United Nations subsidiary bodies, specialized agencies and international intergovernmental organizations, including the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the International Committee of Military Medicine;

Noting also that the Holy See is an Observer State in various United Nations subsidiary bodies, specialized agencies and international intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Settlements Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Tourism Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, as well as in the World Trade Organization;

Noting further that the Holy See became a State Party to the International Health Regulations (2005) on 15 June 2007,

DECIDES that the Holy See, in its capacity as a non-Member State Observer, shall be accorded in the sessions and work of the Health Assembly, the Executive Board and the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board, the rights and privileges of participation set forth in the Annex to the present resolution.

ANNEX

The rights and privileges of participation of the Holy See shall be effected through the following modalities, without prejudice to the existing rights and privileges within the World Health Organization:

1. the right to participate in the general debate of the Health Assembly;
2. the right to make interventions and to be inscribed on the list of speakers, without prejudice to the priority of Member States, at any plenary meeting of the Health Assembly, in its main committees, in the Executive Board as well as in the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board, after the last Member State inscribed on the list;
3. the right of reply;
4. the right to raise points of order relating to any proceedings involving the Holy See, provided that the right to raise such a point of order shall not include the right to challenge the decision of the presiding officer;
5. the right to cosponsor draft resolutions and decisions that make reference to the Holy See; such draft resolutions and decisions shall be put to a vote only upon request from a Member State;
6. seating for the Holy See shall be arranged immediately after Member States; and
7. the Holy See shall not have the right to vote or to put forward candidates.

Seventh plenary meeting, 31 May 2021
A74/VR/7

= = =