



World Health Profession Alliance WHPA

Executive Board 136th Session

Agenda Item 5.1: Framework of engagement with non-State actors

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the World Medical Association, the International Council of Nurses, the International Pharmaceutical Federation, the World Confederation for Physical Therapy and the World Dental Federation, which together form the World Health Professions Alliance.

I am speaking on behalf of WMA, ICN, FIP, FDI and WCPT, which together form the World Health Professions Alliance.

We welcome the efforts made to improve the structure and readability of the framework.

We note the attempt to redistinguish different categories of non-State actors based on their nature. We are questioning this provision because all eligible non-State actors should have the opportunity to participate in WHO activities equally. The envisioned distinction may also be challenged given the lack of precise criteria defining “at arms’ length”. Moreover, academic institutions may also fall under private entities, and the number of private universities is increasing.

states that “*the engagement brings important public benefits, and, for this reason, WHO engages extensively with non-State actors*”. We are disappointed that this is not applied to all activities, for instance, to the SSFFC member state mechanism.

We applaud the efforts towards risk assessment and management when engaging with any non-State actor. We are concerned, however, that such efforts may be difficult to sustain given the increasing workload of WHO staff and may delay positive collaboration.

Paragraph 53(a) on official relations defines the right of NGOs in official relations to appoint a representative to participate in meetings of WHO governing bodies — implying one person — whereas Paragraph 54 refers to a delegation. This inconsistency needs to be resolved. We would prefer the latter option.

We are eager to interact with the WHO and participate in meetings. As there is a tendency for last-minute invitations, we would welcome a systematic possibility to attend the meetings through remote virtual access, which is already available for some WHO meetings.

Finally, we would like clarification on the timeline and process for the implementation of this framework, so that all non-State actors can take appropriate measures.

Thank you for your attention.

World Health Professions Alliance WHPA
c/o World Medical Association
13, Chemin du Levant
01210 Ferney-Voltaire
France

Phone: 0033 (0) 450 40 7575
Fax: 0033 (0) 450 40 5937
Email: whpa@wma.net
www.whpa.org