



World Health Profession Alliance WHPA

Executive Board 134th Session

Agenda Item 5.4: 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.

We welcome the continuing efforts made by the Secretariat to advance the critical issue of engagement with non-state actors.

While under point 7, there is an attempt to distinguish categories of NGOs based on their nature, we wish to highlight some entities that we feel are still missing, such as WHO collaborating centers and public-private partnerships. In addition and more importantly, there appears, in the current analysis no correlation between the nature of an organization and its purpose (or the absence of conflicts of interest). Furthermore there is no relevance of distinguishing non-state actors, especially when reading at point 23 that the diligence procedures and risks assessment will be systematically conducted for all State actors in the future.

With regards to points 10 and 11, our organisations are eager to participate in meetings and discussions, however we are concerned by the fact that often, NGOs receive invitations to meetings only a few days before these meetings. This clearly is not acceptable as it reduces our possibility to provide relevant inputs in the discussion. The Secretariat should also keep in mind that not all NGOs are based in Geneva vicinity. We therefore feel the opportunity to engage with NGOs through remote access (through Webex and Eliminate) is a development to be commended and increased.

We also support the proposals made under item 28 but regret that the decision will only be taken at the 135th Board meeting... meaning that these positive steps will be operational only in 2015.

Finally, we would like to suggest to the Board to designate among its members a person (or country) which could serve the main liaison for NGOs in official relations with WHO.

Thank you for your attention.