



Thursday, April 4, 2024

To:

Mr. Yong Feng

Chair of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee (PBAC) of the WHO Executive Board

People's Republic of China

Mr. Matthew Wilson

Chair of the 155th WHO Executive Board

Barbados

CC:

Permanent Mission of the **People's Republic of China** at the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland

Permanent mission of **Barbados** to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

Subject: Support to uphold the WHO FENSA Process

Your Excellencies,

As Non-State Actors in Official Relations with WHO and civil society organizations (CSO) from around the world, we are gravely concerned with the decision of the Executive Board, at its 154th session, to request the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee (PBAC) to conduct further discussions regarding the WHO Secretariat's recommendation for CSOs to enter into official relations with WHO.

According to the report EB154/37, the WHO Secretariat reviewed applications to ensure that the criteria and other requirements set out in the Framework of Engagement with Non State Actors (FENSA), including due diligence, were fulfilled. Based on this thorough assessment, the WHO Secretariat recommended the admission of those CSOs that met the criteria. **During discussions under this item, States unanimously reiterated their confidence in the FENSA framework and in the due diligence process the WHO Secretariat used to affirm that all applicants passed the criteria. We therefore call on the PBAC to recommend to the Executive Board the admission of these CSOs in official relations as per the recommendations provided by the WHO Secretariat.** Any other decision will undoubtedly undermine the integrity of FENSA, which was negotiated and approved by Member States themselves, and affect the credibility of the WHO.

To maintain public confidence and credibility as a scientific and technical agency, WHO and its Member States must make decisions based on evidence and data. There is no credible reason for going against the WHO Secretariat's recommendation. **We ask that Member States adhere to the objective criteria used to evaluate NSA applications and uphold the recommendations and independent role of the WHO Secretariat.**

Moreover, we are concerned that the decision of the Executive Board contributes to further shrinking civil society space in global health, an issue that non-state actors and the broader civil society have been bringing to the attention of the WHO and its Member States for many years . **We call on all Member States to conform to the WHO constitution** which states that the Organization should *promote cooperation among Member States and with others to promote and protect the health of all peoples*. As such, the FENSA is critical to broadening WHO's engagement with the growing number of organizations that contribute to the "advancement and promotion of public health."

NSAs, particularly civil society organizations, serve on the frontline of public health. Many NSAs include people with lived experiences that continuously face growing public health challenges. These actors understand the public health problems and needs of populations, particularly those poorest and most vulnerable. Without a strong FENSA that is respected and upheld by Member States, WHO will be unable to properly engage with these actors and fulfill its mandate to create a healthier and safer world for everyone.

Sincerely,

Non-State Actors (NSAs) in Official Relations with WHO:

1. Global Health Council (GHC)
2. HelpAge International
3. International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IFBLS)
4. International Federation on Ageing
5. International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)
6. International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH)
7. Medicus Mundi International - Network Health for All
8. NCD ALLIANCE
9. Save the Children
10. The Population Council, Inc
11. Women Deliver
12. Women in Global Health
13. Women in Global Health Philippines
14. World Federation of Hemophilia

Civil Society Organizations:

1. Acharya Nagarjuna University
2. Action against AIDS Germany
3. Action Girls Foundation (AGF)
4. AIM Education and Research Society
5. Alliance for Public Health "ICF"
6. All-Russian Association of Cancer Patients "ZDRAVSTVUY"
7. Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias In Zambia | ADDIZ
8. Aman Welfare Society
9. Amor AIDS Support Community Initiative (ASCI).
10. APCASO
11. ARHR
12. Asociación Ciudadana por los Derechos Humanos. ARGENTINA
13. Association for Farmers Rights Defense, AFRD
14. Association For Promotion Sustainable Development
15. Association Jeunesse et Enfance de Côte d'Ivoire
16. AWTAD Organization for Combating Corruption
17. BasicNeeds-Ghana
18. BCH Africa, Cameroon
19. Bella Foundation for Child and Maternal Care
20. Biosynthesis Medical, C.A
21. BITE Family Planning and Birthing Clinic
22. Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services

23. CARAM Asia
24. Care for Social Welfare International
25. Catholics for Choice
26. Center for Health Policies and Studies (PAS Center)
27. CENTER FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN PHYSICAL REHABILITATION
28. Centre for Community Development South Africa NPC
29. Centre for Girls and Interaction (CEGI Malawi)
30. Centre for Mental Health and Counseling Nepal (CMC-N)
31. Centro de Desarrollo Sostenible -CEDESO-
32. CHEN - patient fertility association Israel
33. Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for UHC2030
34. Community Working Group on Health (CWGH)
35. Confraternity of Patients Kenya (COFPAK)
36. Conseil sur la Santé et l'Académie de Médecine "COSAMED Asbl"
37. CORE Group
38. COSAMED
39. CSYM HUDUMA CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL YOUTH MINISTRY YLO TANZANIA 🇹🇿
40. Educating Girls and Young Women for Development-EGYD
41. EDYCS Epilepsy Group
42. Elizka Relief Foundation
43. EngenderHealth
44. Equal Asia Foundation
45. European Roma Grassroots Organisations (ERGO) Network
46. Fòs Feminista
47. Frontline AIDS
48. Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer
49. Fundación para Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer de Argentina
50. G4 Alliance
51. Georgian Health Promotion and Education Foundation
52. Global Justice Center
53. Global Mental Health Peer Network
54. GRAVIS
55. Green String Network (GSN)
56. Guttmacher Institute
57. Gynuity Health Projects
58. Habari RDC
59. Healthy Caribbean Coalition
60. Hospice Africa Uganda
61. Humanitarian Enhancement Aid for Resilient Transformation-HEART
62. Indonesia Anthropology Association
63. Institut de diplomatie publique
64. INTEGRATED CHANGE AGENT, (ICA), BURUNDI
65. Intelektualët e rinj, Shpresë (IRSH)
66. Interest of Justice
67. International Alliance of Dermatology Patient Organizations (GlobalSkin)
68. International Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research
69. International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
70. International Stillbirth Alliance
71. International Youth Council-Yemen(IYCY)
72. Ipas
73. ISDE Italy
74. Jamma Children Foundation
75. Jeunesse du Monde en Action
76. JSI
77. Kpangbama Farmers Investment- Sierra Leone Limited
78. Lanka Fundamental Rights Organization
79. Malaysian Women's Action for Tobacco Control and Health (MyWATCH)
80. Management Sciences for Health
81. Mediaid Healthcare

82. Medical Impact
83. Medmissio
84. MICOP Kenya
85. Mobiklinic Foundation
86. Mouvement gabonais pour la promotion de la bonne gouvernance
87. Natalí Dafne Flexer Foundation
88. PAI
89. Partnership for Universal Healthcare (PARTCARE)
90. Peace Foundation Pakistan
91. Plataforma Mayor
92. Population Connection
93. Population Services International
94. PROMSEX, Centro de Promoción y Defensa de los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos
95. Psychological Responsiveness NGO
96. Public health international consulting center (PHICC)
97. Resource center for elderly
98. Royal Health Awareness Society
99. ROYAL MEDICO TECHNICAL SOCIETY
100. SA FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH
101. Santé Espoir Vie
102. Social Hope and Lamb Oblige Ministry
103. Suruwat
104. The Africa NCDs Network
105. The Reformed Drug and Substance Abuse Initiative, Nigeria
106. The Vision for Teenagers Adolescents and Youths Wellbeing Initiative
107. The Worldwide Hospice Paliative Care Alliance
108. Transform Health
109. Ukana west 2 community based health initiative (CBHI)
110. UNASCAD (Union des Amis Socio Culturels d'Action en Developpement)
111. Union des Eleveurs et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières
112. United for Global Mental Health
113. Vitality Youth Network
114. Volunteers Welfare for Community Based Care of Zambia (VOWAZA)
115. White Ribbon Alliance Global
116. Women and Modern World Social Charitable Center
117. Women Child Youth Health and Education Initiative (WCY)
118. World Humanitarian Services Disabled Persons Organization
119. World ME Alliance
120. Wote Youth Development Projects CBO
121. YOUTH HEALTH WORKERS FOR SAFE ABORTION