



**PAN AMERICAN  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION**

XXXVIII Meeting



**WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION**

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**NATIONAL AND INTER-AMERICAN NONGOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATIONS IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH PAHO**

Resolution CE113.R18 of the 113th Meeting of the Executive Committee (June 1994) recommended that three inter-American nongovernmental organizations in official relations with PAHO submit information to the Secretariat so that the Standing Subcommittee on Inter-American Nongovernmental Organizations of the Executive Committee could determine whether to recommend continuing or suspending relations with them. It also recommended that the current criteria regarding the establishment and maintenance of official relations between PAHO and inter-American nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) be reviewed.

The Standing Subcommittee on Inter-American Nongovernmental Organizations in Official Relations with PAHO, composed of the Representatives of Argentina (Dr. Argentino Luis Pico), Belize (Hon. Ruben Campos), and Bolivia (Dr. Joaquín Monasterio), met on 28 June 1995 to review the issues and to make recommendations to the Executive Committee for its consideration and transmittal to the Directing Council at its XXXVIII Meeting in September 1995.

In this regard, the Committee found that two NGOs, the Latin American and Caribbean Association of Public Health Education (ALAESPE) and the Latin American Federation of the Pharmaceutical Industry (FIFARMA), should continue official relations with PAHO, while official relations with the third, the Latin American Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (ALIFAR), should be discontinued.

During 1994, the Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (AIDIS) corresponded with PAHO concerning possible admission into official relations and submitted all the necessary information. After reviewing the

supporting documentation, the Subcommittee recommended that PAHO establish official relations with the Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering and grant to it all the benefits afforded organizations in official relations with PAHO.

In addition, the principles and procedures for official relations between PAHO and inter-American NGOs, set out in Resolution CSP20.R20 (1978), were examined and compared with the *Principles Governing Relations between the World Health Organization and Nongovernmental Organizations* (1987). After review, the Standing Subcommittee recommended that the principles and procedures governing PAHO's official relations with NGOs be simplified and brought into line with WHO's criteria.

The Committee agreed that the attached document, *Principles Governing Relations between the Pan American Health Organization and Nongovernmental Organizations* (see Annex A), with minor revisions, strengthened the capacity of the Organization to determine sound selection criteria for those organizations capable of enhancing the health programs of our countries. This document is based on the WHO document of 1987, which is attached as Annex B.

In light of the above, the Executive Committee adopted Resolution CE116.R6, which contains a proposed resolution for consideration by the Directing Council:

***NATIONAL AND INTER-AMERICAN NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS  
IN OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH PAHO***

***THE 116th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,***

Having studied the report (Document CE116/9, Add. II) of the Standing Subcommittee of the Executive Committee charged with reviewing the list of nongovernmental organizations having official relations with PAHO and with making recommendations on the establishment of official relations with institutions requesting such status; and

Believing that the procedures governing PAHO relations with inter-American NGOs set out in Resolution CSP20.R20 are in need of modification,

***RESOLVES:***

1. To continue official relations with the Latin American and Caribbean Association for Public Health Education (ALAESPE).
2. To continue official relations with the Latin American Federation of the Pharmaceutical Industry (FIFARMA).

3. To suspend relations with the Latin American Association of Pharmaceutical Industries (ALIFAR).
4. To authorize the establishment of official relations between PAHO and the Inter-American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (AIDIS) and to request the Director to convey this decision to AIDIS, informing it of the rights and obligations attached to these relations.
5. To request the Chairman of the Executive Committee to inform the Directing Council of PAHO at its XXXVIII Meeting of this decision.
6. To recommend to the Directing Council that it approve the revised procedures governing relations between PAHO and national and inter-American NGOs set out in Document CE116/9, Add. I, by adopting a resolution along the following lines:

*THE XXXVIII MEETING OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL,*

Recalling that the XIV Pan American Sanitary Conference, in Resolution CSP14.R28 (1954), set the criteria for establishing official relations between PAHO and inter-American nongovernmental organizations;

Mindful of the provisions in Resolution CSP20.R20 (1978) of the XX Pan American Sanitary Conference defining the procedures for the establishment by the Pan American Health Organization of official relations with inter-American nongovernmental organizations;

Recalling that the 113th Meeting of the Executive Committee adopted Resolution CE113.R18 recommending the updating of the criteria for the establishment and maintenance of official relations between PAHO and inter-American NGOs;

Recognizing the important role of nongovernmental organizations and the complementarity of resources they represent in the network of governments, peoples, and PAHO/WHO striving for health development;

Emphasizing the need to mobilize national, international, and inter-American nongovernmental organizations for accelerated implementation of health-for-all strategies;

Taking into account that PAHO would benefit by having a written document containing the conceptual framework dealing with the development of informal working relations with nongovernmental organizations and with their admission into official relations similar to that of the World Health Organization (1987); and

Having taken note of the recommendations of the Executive Committee (Resolution CE116.R6),

***RESOLVES:***

To adopt the *Principles Governing Relations between the Pan American Health Organization and Nongovernmental Organizations* presented in Document CD38/10.

Annexes

**PRINCIPLES GOVERNING RELATIONS BETWEEN  
THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND  
NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**1. Introduction**

1.1 Articles 2 and 3 of the Agreement between the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) respectively provide that the Pan American Sanitary Conference (1) "through the Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization . . . shall serve . . . as the Regional Committee . . . of the World Health Organization for the Western Hemisphere" and (2) "may adopt and promote health and sanitary conventions and programs in the Western Hemisphere, provided that such conventions and programs are compatible with the policy and programs of the World Health Organization."

Article 71 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization stipulates that WHO may "make suitable arrangements for consultation and co-operation with non-governmental international organizations and, with the consent of the Government concerned, with national organizations, governmental or non-governmental."

1.2 PAHO should, therefore, within the regional context of the Western Hemisphere, act in conformity with the relevant policies and programs of WHO.

1.3 The objectives of PAHO's collaboration with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are to promote the policies, strategies, and programs derived from the decisions of the Organization's governing bodies; to collaborate with regard to various PAHO programs in jointly agreed activities to implement these strategies; and to play an appropriate role in ensuring the harmonization of intersectoral interests among the various sectoral bodies concerned in a country or regional setting.

1.4 An inter-American NGO is headquartered in one country of the Western Hemisphere and carries out operations in more than one country of the Region. A national NGO operates in an individual country of the Western Hemisphere.

1.5 An NGO can be a technical association or a federation of professionals, educational faculties, or enterprises. Other categories of NGOs include those that work in health and human development. They can be categorized as follows: assistance, relief, protection, and welfare-oriented NGOs; service-oriented NGOs; research and investigation NGOs; development NGOs which focus on community development, basic human needs, and appropriate technology; NGOs which work in partnership with

communities and focus on institutional and organizational strengthening at the local level; and NGOs which work in communication and information and the development of sustainable linkages between communities and their local, national, and regional institutions.

## **2. Types of Relations at the Inter-American or National Level and their Development**

### ***Informal and Official Working Relations***

2.1 PAHO recognizes only one category of official relations, known as formal working relations, with those NGOs which meet the criteria described in these Principles. All other contacts are considered to be of an informal character.

### ***The Development of Informal and Official Working Relations***

2.2 The establishment of relations with NGOs shall be an evolving process proceeding through a number of separate stages as described in the following paragraphs.

2.3 First, informal contacts between PAHO and an NGO occur in the form of exchanges of information and/or reciprocal participation in technical meetings. These exchanges are designed to heighten mutual understanding of each institution's mission, purpose, and comparative interests and strengths. This type of informal contact may continue on an ad hoc basis, without time limit and without written agreement. However, the definition of the broad objectives of collaboration and the possibility of enlarging its scope to include specific joint activities in line with the particular expertise of the nongovernmental organization are also explored at this stage.

2.4 When a number of specific joint activities have been identified, collaboration may be taken a stage further by proceeding to the definition of informal working relations for a period of two to six years entered into by a legally binding agreement. Such an agreement sets out the agreed basis for the collaboration, indicating details of the activities to be undertaken during the period, providing an estimate of the resources to be supplied by PAHO and the NGO, and naming focal points in the NGO and the designated technical officer(s) in PAHO.

2.5 Collaborative activities are jointly monitored every two years, thus allowing for necessary adjustments to the original work plan. At the end of the period of informal working relations, a joint assessment of the outcome of the collaboration is undertaken by the parties concerned, including consideration of the future relationship. This may result in:

- the continuation of the existing informal working relations for a further period;
- an application for admission into official working relations with PAHO for examination by the Executive Committee, should there be a number of activities which might form the basis of a long-term and closer relationship with PAHO;
- a decision that there is no scope for further contacts in the foreseeable future.

2.6 The Executive Committee shall be responsible for deciding on the admission of NGOs into official working relations with PAHO.

### **3. Criteria for the Admission of Inter-American or National NGOs into Official Working Relations with PAHO**

3.1 The main area of competence of the NGO shall fall within the purview of PAHO. Its aims and activities shall be in conformity with the spirit, purposes, and principles of the Constitution of PAHO; shall center on development work in health or health-related fields; and shall be free from concerns which are primarily of a commercial or profit-making nature. The major part of its activities shall be relevant to and have a bearing on the implementation of the major policy orientations of PAHO.

3.2 The NGO shall normally be inter-American in its structure and/or scope and shall represent a substantial proportion of the persons regionally organized for the purpose of participating in the particular field of interest in which it operates. When there are several inter-American NGOs with similar areas of interest, they may form a joint committee or other body authorized to act for the group as a whole.

3.3 The NGO shall be incorporated according to the laws of its established headquarters and shall be endowed with a directing or governing body, an integrated administrative structure at various levels of action, and authority to speak for its members through its authorized representatives. Its members shall exercise voting rights in relation to its policies or action.

3.4 Thus, NGOs eligible for admission into official working relations with PAHO include various types of inter-American NGOs with a federated structure (made up of national or regional groups or having individual members from different countries), foundations that raise resources for health development activities in the Region, and similar bodies promoting health.

3.5 In exceptional cases a national NGO, whether or not affiliated to an inter-American NGO, may be considered eligible for admission into official working relations,

in consultation with the Member State involved and subject to the recommendation of the Director of PAHO.

Such a national NGO [or a number of national NGOs working under a federated (umbrella) structure] shall be eligible for admission based upon the following criteria:

- 3.5.1 the NGO has a well-defined mission, and there has been continuity in its basic commitments over the years;
  - 3.5.2 a major part of its activities and resources are directed towards international and national health and related work;
  - 3.5.3 the NGO has a dependable source of funding for recurrent and fixed administrative costs;
  - 3.5.4 the NGO has adequate margins to support project and administrative staff, its facilities, and program development;
  - 3.5.5 the NGO has alternative sources of administrative support such as income-generating activities and/or consulting;
  - 3.5.6 the NGO has the internal structures to guarantee adequate reporting, financial accounting, and budgeting skills;
  - 3.5.7 the NGO utilizes efficient information-gathering techniques to ensure that the information is used by its staff and is fed back to the community, national and local government agencies, and other partners.
- 3.6 There shall have been at least two years of successfully completed working relations, as described in paragraph 2.4, prior to an application for admission into official working relations.

#### **4. Procedure For Admitting Inter-American or National NGOs into Official Working Relations with PAHO**

4.1 The Executive Committee of PAHO will appoint a three-member Standing Subcommittee on Inter-American Nongovernmental Organizations in Official Working Relations with PAHO, whose terms will expire simultaneously with the expiration of their terms on the Executive Committee.

4.2 Applications from NGOs, made voluntarily or by invitation, should reach PAHO headquarters not later than the end of the month of January in order to be considered by



the Executive Committee in June of that year. The application should include the following supporting documentation:

- 4.2.1 a certified copy of the NGO's charter and by-laws;
- 4.2.2 wherever applicable, certified copies of the charters and by-laws of its affiliates in the Hemisphere;
- 4.2.3 an authenticated copy of the proceedings in which the Directors were elected and of the authorization of the assembly to establish relations with PAHO;
- 4.2.4 a copy of the most recent periodic report on its activities;
- 4.2.5 a general six-year program for collaborative activities which have been agreed upon by the NGO and PAHO headquarters and respective PAHO/WHO Representatives' (PWRs) Offices, accompanied by a more specific biennial workplan according to the following guidelines:
  - a brief review of the health situation in the region, subregion, and/or country where the NGO functions;
  - reference to the specific areas in which PAHO and the NGO may collaborate;
  - a description of how the projects will assist in PAHO's delivery of programs and activities;
  - reference to the expected results of each project;
  - an outline of the indicators for each of the expected results;
  - a list of the activities to be carried out during the year to achieve the expected results;
  - reference to the various types of resources allocated by PAHO and the NGO for each activity;
  - name(s) of the focal point(s) in the NGO and designated technical officers at PAHO headquarters and the PWR Offices.

4.3 Applications from national NGOs shall contain the endorsements of the Director of PAHO and the Member State concerned. Applications should be transmitted to

Executive Committee members by the Secretariat two months in advance of the session at which they will be considered.

4.4 During the June session of the Executive Committee, the Standing Subcommittee shall consider applications submitted by NGOs and shall make recommendations to the Executive Committee; it may invite any such NGO to speak before it in connection with the NGO's application. Should the applicant NGO be considered not to meet the established criteria, and bearing in mind the desirability of ensuring a valuable continuing partnership based on defined objectives and evidenced by a record of successful past collaboration and a framework for future collaborative activities, the Standing Subcommittee may recommend postponement of consideration or rejection of an application.

4.5 The Executive Committee, after considering the recommendations of the Standing Subcommittee, shall decide whether an NGO is to be admitted into official working relations with PAHO. A re-application from an NGO shall not be considered until two years have elapsed since the Executive Committee's decision on the original application.

4.6 The Director of PAHO shall inform each NGO of the Executive Committee's decision on its application.

4.7 The six-year workplan based on mutually agreed objectives, and the outline of specific activities for each two-year period, as described in paragraph 4.2.4, shall form the basis of official working relations between PAHO and the NGO. This plan shall also be transmitted to the PWR Offices to encourage closer formal collaboration at the country level as appropriate.

4.8 Every six years, the Executive Committee, through the Standing Subcommittee, will review the list of NGOs with which PAHO has official working relations and, based on the results of the biennial workplans and activities undertaken during the period in which official working relations were in operation, shall determine the desirability of maintaining these relations.

4.9 The Executive Committee may discontinue official working relations if it considers that such relations are no longer appropriate or necessary in light of changing programs or other circumstances. Similarly, the Executive Committee may suspend or discontinue official working relations if an NGO no longer meets the criteria that applied at the time of the establishment of such relations, or fails to fulfill its obligations under the agreed program of collaboration.

## 5. **Relations with NGOs at the Inter-American and National Levels<sup>1</sup>**

### 5.1 ***Inter-American or National NGOs in Official Working Relations with WHO***

NGOs in official relations with WHO are, by definition, in official working relations with PAHO. Upon their own initiative or by invitation, and in close consultation with the particular Member States, these NGOs will elaborate and execute a program of collaboration with PAHO as described in paragraphs 2.4 and 4.2 to ensure implementation of health-for-all strategies at the country level.

### 5.2 ***Inter-American or National NGOs Not in Official Working Relations with PAHO***

In order that PAHO may promote and support the formation of strong inter-American and national NGOs in the various technical fields, the country office concerned may establish **informal working relations** with an inter-American or national NGO, subject to consultation between the Director of PAHO and the Member State. Such working relations shall be based on a program of activities developed and implemented as described in paragraphs 2.4 and 4.2.

**Formal official working relations** may subsequently be developed in accordance with the criteria and procedures defined in paragraphs 4.2 through 4.6.

## 6. **Privileges Conferred on NGOs by their Relationship with PAHO**

### 6.1 The privileges conferred by an official working relationship shall include:

- (a) the right to appoint a representative to participate, without right of vote, in PAHO meetings or in those of the committees and conferences convened under its authority, subject to the following conditions:

whenever the Pan American Sanitary Conference, Directing Council, or a committee or conference convened under PAHO's aegis discusses an item in which a related NGO is particularly interested, that NGO, at the invitation of the chairperson of the meeting or on his acceding to a request from the NGO, may make a statement of an expository nature and may, with the consent of the chairperson of the meeting, be invited to make, in

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<sup>1</sup> Before informal working relations are established between PAHO and a national NGO, and before a program of collaboration with such an organization is agreed upon, appropriate measures will be taken to consult the Member State concerned.

the course of the discussion of the item before the meeting, an additional statement for purposes of clarification;

- (b) access to non-confidential documentation and such other documentation as the Director of PAHO may see fit to make available through such channels as PAHO may establish;
- (c) the right to submit a memorandum to the Director of PAHO, who shall determine the nature and scope of the circulation.

6.2 In the event of a memorandum being submitted which the Director considers might be placed on the agenda of the Pan American Sanitary Conference or Directing Council, such memorandum shall be placed before the Executive Committee for possible inclusion in the agenda of the Pan American Sanitary Conference or Directing Council.

6.3 A national NGO which is affiliated to an inter-American NGO covering the same subject on a regional basis shall present its views through its government or through the inter-American NGO to which it is affiliated, unless other arrangements are made in view of its particular relationship with PAHO.

## **7. Responsibilities of NGOs in their Relationship with PAHO**

7.1 NGOs shall be responsible for implementing the mutually agreed upon program of collaboration and shall inform PAHO as soon as possible if for any reason they are unable to fulfill their obligations under the agreement.

7.2 NGOs shall utilize the opportunities available to them through their normal work to disseminate information on PAHO policies and programs.

7.3 NGOs shall collaborate individually or collectively in PAHO programs to further the regional and national health-for-all goals and to promote the implementation of the major policy documents of PAHO adopted by the Governing Bodies of the Organization.

## **8. Amendment of the Principles**

These Principles may be amended by a resolution of the Executive Committee.

## **PRINCIPLES GOVERNING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS<sup>1</sup>**

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 As stated in Article 2 of the Constitution, one of the main functions of the World Health Organization (WHO) is to act as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work. In support of this function, and in accordance with Article 71 of the Constitution, WHO may make suitable arrangements for consultation and cooperation with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in carrying out its international health work.

1.2. WHO should, in relation to NGOs, act in conformity with any relevant resolutions of the General Assembly or Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

1.3 The objectives of WHO's collaboration with NGOs are to promote the policies, strategies and programmes derived from the decisions of the Organization's governing bodies; to collaborate with regard to various WHO programmes in jointly agreed activities to implement these strategies; and to play an appropriate role in ensuring the harmonizing of intersectoral interests among the various sectoral bodies concerned in a country, regional or global setting.

### **2. Types of Relations at the Global Level and Their Development**

2.1 WHO recognizes only one category of formal relations, known as official relations, with those NGOs which meet the criteria described in these Principles. All other contacts, including working relations, are considered to be of an informal character.

2.2 The establishment of relations with NGOs shall be an evolving process proceeding through a number of separate stages as described in the following paragraphs.

2.3 First contacts with an NGO in order to create mutual understanding and assist in developing mutual interests frequently take the form of exchanges of information and reciprocal participation in technical meetings. This type of informal contact may continue on an ad hoc basis, without time limit and without written agreement. However, the definition of the broad objectives of collaboration and the possibility of

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<sup>1</sup> Text adopted by the Fortieth World Health Assembly (resolution WHA40.25, in replacement of the Principles adopted by the First and Third World Health Assemblies.

enlarging its scope to include specific joint activities in line with the particular expertise of the nongovernmental organization are also explored at this stage.

2.4 When a number of specific joint activities have been identified, collaboration may be taken a stage further by proceeding to a period (usually two years) of working relations entered into by an exchange of letters. Such letters set out the agreed basis for the collaboration, indicating details of the activities to be undertaken during the period, providing an estimate of the resources to be supplied by WHO and the NGO, and naming focal points in the NGO and in WHO (designated technical officer). A joint assessment of the outcome of the collaboration thus planned is undertaken at the end of the period of working relations by the parties concerned, including also consideration of the future relationship. This may result: in the continuation of the working relations for a further period; in an application for admission into official relations with WHO from an international NGO, for examination by the Executive Board, should there be a number of activities which might form the basis of a long-term and closer relationship with WHO; or in a decision that there is no scope for further contacts in the foreseeable future. This arrangement for consultation and cooperation with NGOs is considered as informal.

2.5 The Executive Board shall be responsible for deciding on the admission of NGOs into official relations with WHO.

### **3. Criteria for the Admission of NGOs into Official Relations with WHO**

3.1 The main area of competence of the NGO shall fall within the purview of WHO. Its aims and activities shall be in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Constitution of WHO, shall center on development work in health or health-related fields, and shall be free from concerns which are primarily of a commercial or profit-making nature. The major part of its activities shall be relevant to and have a bearing on the implementation of the health-for-all strategies as envisaged in the Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000 and the WHO General Program of Work covering a Specific Period.

3.2 The NGO shall normally be international in its structure and/or scope, and shall represent a substantial proportion of the persons globally organized for the purpose of participating in the particular field of interest in which it operates. When there are several international NGOs with similar areas of interest, they may form a joint committee or other body authorized to act for the group as a whole.

3.3 The NGO shall have a constitution or similar basic document, an established headquarters, a directing or governing body, an administrative structure at various levels of action, and authority to speak for its members through its authorized representatives. Its members shall exercise voting rights in relation to its policies or action.

3.4 Thus, organizations eligible for admission into official relations with WHO include various types of international NGOs with a federated structure (made up of national or regional groups or having individual members from different countries), foundations that raise resources for health development activities in different parts of the world, and similar bodies promoting international health.

3.5 In exceptional cases a national organization, whether or not affiliated to an international NGO, may be considered for admission into official relations, in consultation with and subject to the recommendations of the WHO Regional Director and the Member State involved. Such a national organization [or a number of national organizations working under a federated (umbrella) structure] shall be eligible for admission provided that: the major part of its activities and resources are directed towards international health and related work; it has developed a program of collaborative activities with WHO as indicated in paragraph 2.4; and its activities offer appropriate experience upon which WHO may wish to draw.

3.6 There shall normally have been at least two years of successfully completed working relations, as described in paragraph 2.4, prior to an application for admission into official relations.

#### **4. Procedure for Admitting NGOS into Official Relations with WHO**

4.1 Applications should normally reach WHO headquarters not later than the end of the month of July in order to be considered by the Executive Board in January of the following year. They shall specify a structured plan for collaborative activities agreed upon by the organization and WHO. Applications from national organizations shall contain the endorsements of the WHO Regional Director and the government of the Member State concerned. Applications should normally be transmitted to Board members by the Secretariat two months in advance of the session at which they will be considered.

4.2 During its January session the Board's Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations, composed of five members, shall consider applications submitted by NGOs, voluntarily or by invitation, and shall make recommendations to the Board; it may invite any such organization to speak before it in connection with the organization's application. Should the applicant organization be considered not to meet the established criteria, and bearing in mind the desirability of ensuring a valuable continuing partnership based on defined objectives and evidenced by a record of successful past collaboration and a framework for future collaborative activities, the Standing Committee may recommend postponement of consideration or rejection of an application.

4.3 The Board, after considering the recommendations of the Standing Committee, shall decide whether an organization is to be admitted into official relations with WHO. A re-application from an NGO shall not normally be considered until two years have elapsed since the Board's decision on the original application.

4.4 The Director-General shall inform each organization of the Board's decision on its application. He shall maintain a list of the organizations admitted into official relations, and this list and any amendments thereto shall be circulated to the Members of WHO.

4.5 A plan for collaboration based on mutually agreed objectives and outlining activities for the coming three-year period shall form the basis of official relations between WHO and the NGO. This plan shall be transmitted also to the WHO regional offices to encourage closer collaboration at the regional level as appropriate.

4.6 The Board, through its Standing Committee on Nongovernmental Organizations, shall review collaboration with each NGO every three years and shall determine the desirability of maintaining official relations. The Board's review shall be spread over a three-year period, one-third of the NGOs in official relations being reviewed each year.

4.7 The Board may discontinue official relations if it considers that such relations are no longer appropriate or necessary in the light of changing programmes or other circumstances. Similarly, the Board may suspend or discontinue official relations if an organization no longer meets the criteria that applied at the time of the establishment of such relations, or fails to fulfill its part in the agreed program of collaboration.

## **5. Relations with NGOs at the Regional and National Levels<sup>2</sup>**

### **5.1 *Regional or National NGOs Affiliated to International NGOs in Official Relations with WHO***

These NGOs are, by definition, in official relations with WHO Regional Office(s). They shall develop and implement a program of collaboration with the regional and national levels of WHO to ensure implementation of health-for-all strategies at the country level.

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<sup>2</sup> Before working relations are established between WHO and a national NGO, and before a programme of collaboration with such an organization is agreed, appropriate measures will be taken to consult the Government concerned in accordance with Article 71 of the WHO Constitution.



## 5.2 *Regional or National NGOs for Which There is no International NGO*

The Regional office concerned may establish working relations with these organizations subject to consultation between the Regional Director and the Director-General of WHO. A program of activities developed and implemented as described in paragraph 2.4 would be essential.

## 5.3 *Regional or National NGOs Affiliated to International NGOs not in Official Relations with WHO*

In order that WHO may promote and support the formation of strong international NGOs in the various technical fields, the regional office concerned may establish working relations with the above-mentioned regional or national organizations, subject to consultation between the Regional Director and the Director-General of WHO. Such working relations shall be based on a program of activities developed and implemented as described in paragraph 2.4.

## 6. **Privileges Conferred on NGOs by Relationship with WHO**

### 6.1 The privileges conferred by official relationship shall include:

(i) the right to appoint a representative to participate, without right of vote, in WHO's meetings or in those of the committees and conferences convened under its authority, on the following conditions:

whenever the Health Assembly, or a committee or conference convened under WHO's authority, discusses an item in which a related NGO is particularly interested, that NGO, at the invitation of the chairman of the meeting or on his acceding to a request from the organization, shall be entitled to make a statement of an expository nature, and may, with the consent of the meeting, be invited by the chairman to make, in the course of the discussion of the item before the meeting, an additional statement for purposes of clarification;

(ii) access to non-confidential documentation and such other documentation as the Director-General may see fit to make available through such special distribution facilities as WHO may establish;

(iii) the right to submit a memorandum to the Director-General, who would determine the nature and scope of the circulation.

6.2 In the event of a memorandum being submitted which the Director-General considers might be placed on the agenda of the Health Assembly, such memorandum shall be placed before the Executive Board for possible inclusion in the agenda of the Assembly.

6.3 Privileges similar to those stated above shall normally be accorded to national/regional NGOs having working relations with WHO regional offices, in accordance with section 5, as determined by the Regional Directors in consultation with the regional committees.

6.4 A national organization which is affiliated to an international NGO covering the same subject on an international basis shall normally present its views through its government or through the international NGO to which it is affiliated, unless other arrangements are made in view of its particular relationship with WHO.

## **7. Responsibilities of NGOs in their Relationship with WHO**

7.1 NGOs shall be responsible for implementing the mutually agreed program of collaboration and shall inform WHO as soon as possible if for any reason they are unable to fulfill their part of the agreement.

7.2 NGOs shall utilize the opportunities available to them through their normal work to disseminate information on WHO policies and programmes.

7.3 NGOs shall collaborate individually or collectively in WHO programmes to further Health-for-all goals.

7.4 NGOs shall individually or collectively collaborate with the Member States where their activities are based in the implementation of the national/regional health-for-all strategies.