Web consultation with non-State actors on their participation in WHO governance
Agenda

10:00 Welcome and opening remarks

10:10 Findings from the web consultation with non-State actors on their participation in WHO governance

Dr Gaudenz Silberschmidt, Director, Health and Multilateral Partnerships

Taina Nakari, External Relations Officer, Health and Multilateral Partnerships

10:40 Questions and answers on consultation

11:10 Director General proposals to the Executive Board

Dr Gaudenz Silberschmidt

11:20 Questions/answers and discussion
WHO governance reform processes: Involvement of non-State actors

- Report of the Executive Board Chairperson EB144/34 (January 2019) “Participation of non-State actors in governing body meetings”
  - Secretariat requested to elaborate a report and make recommendations about the informal meeting/forum to be submitted to the 145th session of the Executive Board (May 2019)

- EB145/4 WHO governance reform processes: Involvement of non-State actors
  - Secretariat requested to organize web-based consultation with non-State actors to hear their views and proposals regarding their participation in WHO governing bodies and potential organization of an informal meeting, with a view to elaborating a proposal for consideration by the Board at its 146th session.

- EB146/33 WHO reform: Involvement of non-State actors in WHO’s governing bodies
  - Elaboration of proposals for non-State actor participation in WHO governing bodies based on the web-based consultation with non-State actors
EB145/4: Agreed principles for improving the engagement of non-State actors in WHO’s governance

Improving the engagement of non-State actors in WHO’s governance should respect the following objectives:

(a) respect the intergovernmental nature of WHO

(b) become more meaningful

(c) increase the efficiency and effectiveness of interactions

(d) respect the diversity of non-State actors
Web-consultation with non-State actors on their participation in WHO governance

The web consultation was conducted 26 August - 15 September 2019 through a survey questionnaire accessible on WHO website.

6 sets of questions:
1. Information on the respondent
2. Participation in the World Health Assembly and WHO Executive Board meetings
3. Involvement in the World Health Assembly and/or WHO Executive Board meetings
4. Participation and involvement in WHO Regional Committees
5. Country level consultation ahead of WHO governing body meetings
6. Organization of separate informal meeting to stimulate non-State actor involvement in WHO governance.

The survey included multiple choice questions and written answers so that non-State actors can freely express their views on their participation in WHO governance and give their proposals.

Invitations to complete the survey were sent to:
• Non-State actors in official relations
• Members or close non-State actor collaborators of WHO hosted partnerships
• These both were encouraged to share the link to the consultation with members or other non-State actors in their networks

Only one completed questionnaire per non-State actor was accepted.
Results of the web consultation

Results were assessed for all accepted (199/205) respondents in an aggregated manner, as well as separately in an aggregated manner for:
1. Non-State actors in official relations with WHO; and
2. Non-State actors not in official relations.

Membership:
- non-State actors with members (individual or entities): 139 out of 199;
- size of membership varied equally from small (1-99) to very large (over 100,000 members);
- 37% of non-State actors with membership 100-2999:
- non-State actors in official relations had proportionally larger memberships

Size of staff
- varied from very small (0-3) to very large (over 100 staff)

Size of annual budget:
- was not reported for all, therefore conclusions cannot be made.

Link to EB146/33 WHO Reform: Involvement of non-State actors in WHO’s governing bodies:

Link to report from web consultation and its annexes:
https://www.who.int/about/collaborations/involvement-of-non-state-actors/en/
Respondents and types of entities

- Out of 205 sets of responses received, 199 were accepted for assessment.
- 109 non-State actors in official relations.
- 90 non-State actors not in official relations.

![Pie chart showing the distribution of respondents by type of entity: NGOs (177), Academic Institutions (10), Private sector (6), Business Associations (4), Philanthropic Foundations (2).]
How important is participation in WHO governing body meetings for your entity and what priority does it have in your annual work?

Altogether 89% of non-State actors in official relations think that participation in WHO governing body meetings is very or somewhat important for them.
Challenges to participation in WHO governing body meetings

- Resources - Financial and human
- Scheduling; agenda time management; funding for full delegation to attend (the full length of meeting)
- Significant cuts to speaking time and limitations on who can deliver joint statements
- (Statements) Too late in the process to change or inform the debate in any significant way
- Limited opportunity for civil society to be heard and participate, outside of side-events.
- Accessibility to relevant technical units.
- No formal mechanism to engage Member States, including the opportunity to meet face to face and support process
In your view, how satisfactory are the current modalities of involving non-State actors in WHO governance?
I am very uncertain of the impact of our input and to what extent we have any influence and whether our contribution makes any difference.

There is little space for non-state actors to have their voices heard and little opportunity for two-way engagement (i.e. feedback or reflection from WHO and/or Member States on NSA input).

Main mechanisms for NSA involvement are delivery of statements during governing body meetings and posting these statements on the WHO-coordinated website. Neither of these represent a meaningful opportunity to really impact Member State decisions, nor do they offer the opportunity for meaningful dialogue or exchange on the topics.

There could be more topic specific engagement with Member States and WHO on different topics outside of the formal General Body meeting.

An opportunity for parties to debate views in an online setting prior to the informal meeting...

......significant improvements in how non-state actors are involved in WHO governance, and are very positive to both the creation, and formalization, of a Civil Society Engagement Mechanism such as UHC2030 and the development of the FENSA...However, further prospects for improvement for effective interventions and statements at the committee session.
Which aspects of WHO governing body events are most relevant to your organization?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Non-State actors not in official relations</th>
<th>Non-State actors in official relations</th>
<th>All respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staying up-to-date with decisions made by WHO on technical areas of interest</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal technical briefings and side events</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting with other entities working on the same topics</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings with WHO technical units</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making statements in the Executive Board meeting or Committee A or B at the WHA</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal networking</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Following WHO governance</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exploring bilateral opportunities on resource mobilization</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal side events</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>30</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
To what extent does making statements provide an opportunity to non-State actors in official relations and their constituencies to:

- Influence outcome of the debates of the WHO governing bodies: 51%
- Raise awareness of the topic among Member States and a larger audience: 85%
- Raise awareness on work of my organization among Member States and a larger audience: 83%
- Other: 16%
Should non-State actors in official relations be organized in constituencies for making their contributions to WHO Governing bodies, if the constituencies had a more prominent manner to contribute to the debates?

Non-State actors in official relations:
- Yes: 48%
- No: 21%
- Not sure: 31%

Non-State actors not in official relations:
- Yes: 71%
- No: 11%
- Not sure: 18%
In your view, should WHO organize separate informal meeting/s in order to stimulate non-State actors' involvement in WHO governance?

- All respondents: 86% YES, 6% NO, 8% OTHER
- Non-State actors in official relations: 88% YES, 6% NO, 6% OTHER
- Non-State actors not in official relations: 83% YES, 7% NO, 10% OTHER
If WHO organized an informal meeting to stimulate non-State actors' involvement in WHO governance, who should be invited as participants?
If organized, when should the informal meeting take place?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>January, in between the meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee and the Executive Board</th>
<th>Back-to-back meeting before the World Health Assembly</th>
<th>A stand-alone independent meeting outside WHO governing body meetings but before the World Health Assembly, after all WHA documents have been released</th>
<th>A stand-alone independent meeting outside WHO governing body meetings, during a calmer period of the year</th>
<th>Any other proposed timing</th>
<th>Total (%)</th>
<th>Total number of respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All respondents (%)</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-State actors in official relations (%)</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>%Non-State actors not in official relations (%)</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>80</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Improving the engagement of non-State actors in WHO’s governance should respect the following objectives:

(a) respect the intergovernmental nature of WHO
(b) become more meaningful
(c) increase the efficiency and effectiveness of interactions
(d) respect the diversity of non-State actors

(e) facilitate enhanced technical exchanges between Member States, non-State actors and the Secretariat; and

(f) provide incentives for non-State actors to deliver a limited number of grouped statements in governing bodies.
Facilitate enhanced technical exchanges between Member States, non-State actors and the Secretariat

(Online) consultations

• Set up a process for open online consultations with relevant non-State actors to give their views and input on governing body documents as well as WHO action plans, roadmaps and strategies at an early stage in drafting.

• Calendar of and responses from consultations publicly available and published online

• Increase efforts both at global and regional levels to brief and interact with non-State actors prior to governing body meetings

(Actions to be taken by the Secretariat)
Facilitate enhanced technical exchanges between Member States, non-State actors and the Secretariat

Informal meeting

• parallel to the Programme Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board, continuing into the weekend preceding the Health Assembly

• non-State actors in official relations, WHO technical units, WHO regional and country offices and Member States

• multiple side events and a forum with WHO technical programmes and regions

• opportunity for non-State actors to consult with each other, form groups and prepare joint statements.
Provide incentives for non-State actors to deliver a limited number of grouped statements in governing bodies

**Statements**

- Five constituency/group statements per agenda item, to deliver early on in the debate
- For agenda items with constituency statements no individual statement delivered (but can be posted on the website)
- Individual statements on agenda item possible if no joint statements, but maximum of 7 individual statements on a first come first served basis
- 3 statements per non-State actor during the session

**Size of delegations**

- Non-State actor delegation size up to 25 members (for WHA, not for EB and proposed informal meeting)