Constituency Statement on Engagement of non-state actors

158th session of the WHO Executive Board

28.6. Engagement of non-state actors

2 February 2026

This statement is delivered on behalf of:

1. Global Health Council
2. The Save the Children Fund
3. Center for Reproductive Rights
4. Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance
5. ICCBBA
6. International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care
7. International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO)
8. World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (WFUMB)
9. World Federation of Hemophilia
10. World Vision International
11. Women Deliver
12. International Association for Dental Research
13. International Planned Parenthood Federation
14. Association Africaine des Centrales d'Achats de Médicaments Essentiels
15. International Federation of Surgical Colleges and Societies (IFSCS Ltd)
16. Population Council
17. HelpAge International
18. Multiple Sclerosis International Federation (MSIF)
19. Medicus Mundi International - Network Health for All
20. **World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA)**

21. The International Lactation Consultant Association
22. International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness
23. International Federation of Medical Students' Associations
24. International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF)

We appreciate WHO's efforts to ensure that the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (FENSA) is fully implemented at all levels of the Organization. Joint and individual statements by non-State actors (NSAs) should remain an integral part of WHO official proceedings so that NSA perspectives are heard and meaningfully considered throughout deliberations.

NSAs—particularly civil society and patient organizations—are on the frontlines of public health. Many include individuals with lived experience of ongoing and emerging health challenges, while others provide essential health and care services in communities. They also contribute to research and evidence generation that helps identify what works, for whom, and how to scale it safely. These actors have a deep understanding of the needs of populations, especially those who are poorest, most marginalized, and most at risk. Without their meaningful participation, WHO cannot fully deliver on its mandate to build a healthier and safer world for all.

We are deeply concerned by push back against the admission or renewal of civil society organizations—duly vetted by the WHO Secretariat—into official relations with WHO. Moving forward, we urge for adherence to the objective criteria for evaluating NSA applications, and to respect the Secretariat's independent role and recommendations in this process.

At a time of significant financial constraints facing WHO and the broader global health sector, we encourage WHO and Member States to strengthen collaboration with civil society to work more efficiently and effectively toward our shared global health goals.