

WONCA Bylaws

Proposed amendment for consideration and adoption by the WONCA Council at its meeting on 14–15 September 2025.

Article 4. Use of shortened Mission Statement

Rationale

The existing Mission as detailed in WONCA Bylaws is long and rarely written in full.

Incorporating an acceptable short version in the WONCA Bylaws is a permission giving action.

Article 4. Use of shortened Mission Statement

Existing ARTICLE 4.1 Mission

The Mission of The Organization is to improve the quality of life of the peoples of the world through defining and promoting its values, including respect for universal human rights and including gender equity, and by fostering high standards of care in general practice/family medicine as a key component of high-quality primary care by:

- promoting personal, comprehensive and continuing care for the individual and the family in the context of the community and society;*
- promoting equity through the equitable treatment, inclusion and meaningful advancement of all groups of people, particularly women and girls, in the context of all health care and other societal initiatives;*
- encouraging and supporting the development of academic organizations of general practitioners/family physicians;*
- providing a forum for exchange of knowledge and information between Member Organizations, general practitioners/family physicians; and other primary care health professionals; and*
- representing the policies and the educational, research and service provision activities of general practitioners, family physicians to other world organizations and forums concerned with health and medical care.*

Article 4. Use of shortened Mission Statement

It may be that Council would like to review the mission statement entirely, but this is a significant undertaking requiring organization wide engagement and input. To assist in the short term:

RECOMMENDATION: That the following wording is added to the end of Bylaws ARTICLE 4.1 Mission to formalise the often-used shorter mission statement:

“It is acceptable to use a shorter mission statement as follows: “The Mission of The Organization is to promote general practice and family medicine to improve the quality of life and health of the peoples of the world.”