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**Engagement with non-State actors:
Accreditation of regional non-State actors not in
official relations with WHO to attend meetings of the
WHO Regional Committee for Europe**

This document contains a recommendation from the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe to the Regional Committee to endorse the applications by seven non-State actors not yet in official relations with WHO for accreditation to attend meetings of the Regional Committee. It lists the seven non-State actors from which applications were received that fulfilled all the established criteria.

The Regional Committee is requested to consider the information presented in this document and adopt the draft decision on this topic.

Background

1. Accreditation is a privilege that the WHO Regional Committee for Europe may grant to international, regional and national non-State actors not in official relations with WHO. It includes an invitation to participate, without the right to vote, in meetings of the Regional Committee and the possibility to submit written and/or oral statements through the WHO Regional Office for Europe.
2. In order to support the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee (SCRC) and the Regional Committee in fulfilling their mandates on accreditation, the Secretariat assessed applications for accreditation received from non-State actors, to ensure that all requirements had been fulfilled in accordance with the provisions of the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors and resolution EUR/RC67/R7 on partnerships for health in the WHO European Region. All applicants provided signed tobacco- and arms-related disclosure statements.

Applications that met the established criteria

3. Seven non-State actors were found to have met the requirements and the SCRC recommends their accreditation to the Regional Committee. These entities are listed below:
 - AFEW International
 - AGE Platform Europe
 - AIDS Healthcare Foundation Europe
 - European Federation of Nurses Associations
 - European Patients' Forum
 - European Respiratory Society
 - Norwegian Cancer Society
4. A summary of each non-State actor that applied and met the criteria for accreditation is available in the Annex.
5. The Regional Committee is requested to adopt the draft decision on this topic.

Annex. Summary of non-State actors that applied and met the criteria for accreditation status

AFEW International

1. AFEW International is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health of key populations in society. With a focus on eastern Europe and central Asia, AFEW strives to promote health and increase access to prevention, treatment and care for major public health concerns such as HIV, tuberculosis (TB), viral hepatitis, and sexual and reproductive health. In 2017, AFEW continued its relations with donors and signed new contracts with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Gilead Sciences Inc., the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, ViiV Healthcare, Project HOPE and USAID. Income in 2017 came from international foundations, donations and subsidies from governments.

2. Planned collaborative activities with the Regional Office for Europe in 2019–2021: as with past collaboration with the Regional Office, collaboration is sought on a regular basis, depending on upcoming needs and developments regarding HIV, TB and viral hepatitis. There is regular contact with representatives of the Regional Office during meetings of the Civil Society Forum, and at other meetings and conferences.

AGE Platform Europe

3. AGE Platform Europe is legally established in Belgium as an international non-profit association with a mission to voice and promote the interests of the 198 million citizens aged 50 years and above in the European Union (EU) and to raise awareness of the issues that concern them most. Its network represents more than 40 million senior citizens across the EU. The AGE network seeks to promote older people's rights at the EU and international levels, to combat ageism and to support a dignified, active and socially included old age for all. AGE Platform Europe is governed by a General Assembly composed of all AGE members, by an Executive Committee of elected representatives, and by a Council of Administration. The Accreditation Committee is responsible for examining applications for membership. AGE Platform Europe is funded mainly by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers of the European Commission, membership fees and donations. It has had a long working relationship with the Regional Office.

4. Planned collaborative activities with the Regional Office for Europe in 2019–2021: AGE Platform Europe will closely collaborate with the Regional Office to bring older people's perspectives to key areas, including by: supporting the preparation of the Decade of Action on Healthy Ageing; building on WHO materials and documents to advocate for healthy ageing and to combat age-based discrimination; and providing communication support for WHO policies, tools and guidance via the AGE Platform Europe website, newsletter and social media channels, as well as for relevant WHO and United Nations events such as the International Day of Older Persons and World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. AGE Platform Europe will also collaborate on strengthening synergies and establishing key connections in relevant areas of work, notably in relation to: long-term care and integrated care; elder abuse; age-friendly environments and the WHO European Healthy Cities Network Healthy Ageing Task Force; air pollution and climate change; and assistive technologies.

AIDS Healthcare Foundation Europe (AHF Europe)

5. AHF Europe, the European Bureau of AHF, is a provider of user-oriented HIV prevention, testing, treatment and care services across Europe. AHF Europe is a nongovernmental organization registered in the Netherlands (Stichting AHF Global Immunity). AHF Europe is managed by the European Bureau Chief and Executive Management team, which includes the Deputy Bureau Chief and Programmes Director, Medical and Quality Director, Advocacy and Marketing Director, Finance Director Associate as well as Country Programme Directors for Ukraine and Russia and the European Union Programme Manager. It is financed from the AHF headquarters office in Los Angeles, United States of America, which funds its mission to rid the world of AIDS through a network of pharmacies, thrift stores, healthcare contracts and other strategic partnerships. The annual budget for AHF Europe is US\$ 1.6 million. AHF Europe assets stand at US\$ 250 000. Financial reports are publicly available.

6. Planned collaborative activities with the Regional Office for Europe in 2019–2021: these include active work within the HIV treatment reference group for the WHO European Region; and support to key countries on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Health Sector Response to HIV in the WHO European Region, including best practices of people-centred HIV care, “test and treat”, rapid treatment initiation and community-based approaches. Within its programmes, AHF Europe will support the implementation of country roadmaps which stem from the Amsterdam ministerial policy dialogue organized by the Regional Office. AHF Europe will contribute to the repository of best practice in HIV/TB care in the WHO European Region, and will provide educational activities for health-care professionals in eastern Europe and central Asia with the goal of increasing capacity in the Region and making professionals aware of WHO guidelines related to HIV/TB testing, treatment and care. AHF Europe will exchange information and experience in eastern Europe and central Asia, including on the implementation of rapid diagnostic tests and integrated care models, and will participate in events organized by the Regional Office and regional consultations related to HIV/TB.

European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN)

7. Established in 1971, EFN represents 36 national nurses’ associations across the EU and Europe. Its mission is to strengthen the status and practice of the profession of nursing for the benefit of the health of the citizens and the interests of nurses in Europe, with particular reference to the EU, by lobbying the EU institutions (European Commission, European Parliament, and European Council) to bring to their attention the current and potential collaboration of nurses and nursing towards meeting the health-care needs of the population throughout the EU. EFN’s annual income of around €450 000 comes mainly from membership fees (as determined and approved by the autumn EFN General Assembly each year), and from any EU projects in which it is involved.

8. Planned collaborative activities with the Regional Office for Europe in 2019–2021: between 2019 and 2021 EFN is aiming to continue and strengthen its close collaboration with WHO and the Regional Committee for Europe. In particular, EFN will continue its relationship with the Regional Office with a focus on health systems reform, digitalization, primary care, and the nursing workforce.

European Patients' Forum (EPF)

9. EPF is an umbrella organization that works with patients' groups in public health and health advocacy across Europe. EPF has 72 members (52 full members, 19 associate members and 1 provisional member). EPF members represent specific chronic disease groups at EU level or are national coalitions of patients. EPF is administered by a Board of Members elected by the Annual General Meeting for a term of two years. The Board meets five times a year to provide political leadership, ensure the good running of the Secretariat and oversee the implementation of the annual work programme. EPF funding sources are membership fees, EU project funding and industry funding. EPF has a code of ethics and framework for interactions with funders, both public and private. It receives some private-sector funding; however, this is usually only 1–2% per work programme.

10. Planned collaborative activities with the Regional Office for Europe in 2019–2021: the Regional Office will be involved in the first EPF Congress on patient involvement in health systems, with representation on the high-level advisory board (November 2019). EPF has an active and systematic participation in all relevant regional initiatives to ensure a strong patient perspective – an example is the forthcoming symposium on the digitalization of health systems, which will draw on EPF's body of work on digital health and data through the lens of patients. Both organizations are engaged in an ongoing dialogue on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

European Respiratory Society (ERS)

11. ERS is an international organization that brings together physicians, health-care professionals, scientists and other experts working in respiratory medicine. ERS is one of the leading medical organizations in the respiratory field, with a growing membership representing over 160 countries. The Society is a not-for-profit, international organization of individuals, constituted in accordance with the Swiss Civil Code. Annual reports since 2013, financial reporting and transparency statutes are publicly available, with the main funding sources for 2017–2018 being the ERS International Congress exhibition, evening symposia, grants, publications and membership fees.

12. Planned collaborative activities with the Regional Office for Europe in 2019–2021: collaboration has been discussed on tobacco control, air quality, influenza, joint guidelines, training courses and publications (such as a revision of the *European Lung White Book*), WHO participation at the Society's international congress and contributions to the European Respiratory Journal. If accreditation is accepted, ERS commits to attending future Regional Committee meetings where there are agenda items relevant to the area of promoting lung health.

Norwegian Cancer Society (NCS)

13. NCS is a non-political, not-for-profit organization registered in Norway. NCS's objectives, as enshrined in its Articles of Association, are to work to prevent and reduce cancer, and to improve quality of life for patients and their families. These objectives are realized through the following means: broad-based cancer research, information (on the causes of cancer, manifestation, prevention and treatment), cancer care (help for cancer patients and their families), and serving as a voice for the cancer cause. The highest body is the Committee of Representatives, with 50 members. The Committee of Representatives

elects the Board of Directors, decides on and amends the Articles of Association and approves the annual budget. In the most recent revised accounts (2017), annual income was NKr 614 million (US\$ 72 million). NCS is mainly financed through fundraising, testamentary gifts and national lottery funding. Bequests represented one of the largest sources of income in 2017, totalling NKr 126.3 million. NCS had 36 800 regular donors who donated NKr 43.3 million. The organization received NKr 52.1 million from donor letters and NKr 23.9 million in memorial donations (donations given in memory of a deceased person).

14. Planned collaborative activities with the Regional Office for Europe in 2019–2021: NCS and the Regional Office have jointly agreed a three-year plan for collaboration. NCS will support the work of the Division of Health Emergencies and Communicable Diseases by bringing forward WHO advocacy messaging on antimicrobial resistance, using the impact on cancer patients as an illustrative case of the adverse effect of antimicrobial resistance on global health. They will also support the Division of Noncommunicable Diseases and Promoting Health through the Life-course and support the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in the WHO European Region with a specific focus on cancer, including cervical cancer.

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