



WHO 136th Executive Board Session – 26 January – 3 February 2015

**Statement in support of Provisional Agenda Item 5.1 EB136/5
Framework of engagement with non-State actors**

The World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) is comprised of 84 member organizations based across all WHO regions and represents an estimated 550,000 occupational therapists world-wide.

WFOT welcomes and supports WHO's activities to strengthen engagement with non-state actors and thus improve transparency and accountability. WFOT has been in official relations with WHO since 1959 and fully values the privileges conferred by this relationship.

All non-state actors play a major role in all aspects of global health and we welcome WHO's assertion that non-state actors play an essential role in helping WHO fulfil its mandate of health for all. The eligibility of non-state actors to participate in WHO activities equally and without prejudice is of fundamental importance, including an understanding of and respect for the added value that NGOs bring to collaborations. Utilizing non-state actors particular areas of expertise will lead to greater understanding and collaboration between all stakeholders.

WFOT agrees that is important for WHO to ensure the legitimacy and credibility of the non-state actors it engages with. The framework therefore provides consistent and appropriate criteria for and methods of effective engagement by the full range of non- state actors. The publishing of details of WHO's engagement with non-state actors, including clear and well-organised and disseminated timelines and papers for consultations, events and meetings will facilitate effective participation by ensuring access to all documents and sufficient time to respond.

WFOT looks forward to continuing to working closely with WHO and all stakeholders in achieving health for all.

This statement is submitted on behalf of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists.

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