

WFNMB and WHO

WHO-WFNMB Liaison Officer: John O. Prior (since August 2019)

World Health Organization (WHO)

The [WHO](#) is an international organization of more than 8'000 professionals coordinating the world's response to health emergencies, promoting well-being, preventing disease and expanding access to health care. By connecting nations, people and partners to scientific evidence they can rely on, WHO strives to give everyone an equal chance at a safe and healthy life. It is composed of 194 countries members around the world distributed into 6 regions (Africa, Americas, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, South-East Asia and Western Pacific).

WHO is the directing and coordinating authority on international health within the United Nations system. It adheres to the UN values of integrity, professionalism and respect for diversity. [WHO workforce's values](#) reflects the principles of human rights, universality and equity established in WHO's Constitution as well as ethical standards of the organization. WHO's value charter emphasize "*promoting health —keeping the world safe — and serving the vulnerable*".

WHO is relying on their [General Programme of Work \(GPW\)](#) to define its strategy and biennial budget requirement. WHO is committed to measuring progress towards the GPW goals and targets regularly, as detailed in their [WHO Results Reports](#) and the [WHO Programme Budget Portal](#).

WHO Goals for 2025-2028 Period

The [Fourteenth General Program of Work \(GPW14\)](#) sets the high-level roadmap for global health to guide WHO work to support its Member States for the 4-year 2025-2028 period "*to promote, provide and protect the health and well-being of all people, everywhere*". This ambitious agenda includes challenges and key mega-trends, including climate change, aging, migration, evolving geopolitics, and advancing science and technology. The current GPW14 document (draft presented to the 77th World Health Assembly) is accessible at https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA77/A77_16-en.pdf.

WHO and Non-State Actors like the WFNMB

[WHO is engaged extensively with Non-State Actors](#) building on successful collaborations to help the Member's States efforts to advance the public health agenda. This is well regulated according to WHO's policies and rules, including the [Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors \(FENSA\)](#) adopted during the 69th session of the World Health Assembly in 2016.

There is an informative [2024 Handbook](#) describing the FENSA and how NSA can engage with WHO.

[WFNMB](#) has obtained the status of “Non-State Actor” (NSA) in official relation with WHO in 2019 under tireless efforts of Prof. Angelika Bischof Delaloye who was the first WHO focal point for WFNMB working as the only nuclear medicine physician in the non-governmental expert group in imaging and nuclear medicine since 2015 and producing the [WHO list of priority medical devices for cancer management](#) in 2017. On September 2–4, 2019, the WFNMB was invited for the first time as NSA to participate to a WHO-organised Workshop at WHO Headquarters in Geneva entitled “Workshop on Ethical Aspects of Radiation Protection in Health Care”. As of June 2024, the WFNMB has kept this status as [NSA in official relation with WHO](#), participating regularly in the annual World Health Assemblies and Bi-Annual Executive Board Meetings.

Triennial plans between WHO and WFNMB

All triennial plans of the WFNMB can be consulted in the [WHO Register of Non-State Actors](#) (2019-2021, 2022-2024, 2025-2027). WFNMB’s work is essentially aiming WHO in line with their conceptual framework called “*the triple billion targets*” to be reach by 2030 as compared to the 2018 baseline, and with Pillar 1 “*One billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage*” and Pillar 3 “*One billion more people enjoying better health and well-being*”.

The WHO-WFNMB collaboration articulates around WFNMB supporting feedback on technical reports to WHO’s consideration about radiopharmaceuticals, appropriate use of diagnostic and therapeutic nuclear medicine technologies in noncommunicable diseases (e.g. oncological, cardiovascular, neurological and inflammatory diseases), and communicable diseases (e.g. AIDS, tuberculosis, COVID-19 and post-COVID condition). Also of importance are technical drafting/peer reviewing of technical documents on radiation safety culture, integration of ethical considerations radiation protection in medicine and access to quality and safety imaging and therapeutic nuclear medicine technologies in Low- and Middle-Income Countries. WFNMB is also working hand in hand with WHO to jointly organize working session/webinar on safety and quality in nuclear medicine. There is also advocacy and awareness raising activities conducted by WFNMB in nuclear medicine, including dissemination of information to support the promotion of the annual World Patient Safety Day. WFNMB will also support dissemination of WHO patient safety education and training resources.

Previous Achievements

WFNMB participated with 8 other NSAs in a statement to support the [Resolution on Strengthening Diagnostics Capacity](#) presented at the 76th World Health Assembly in Geneva in May 2023. Although this resolution was essentially referring to in vivo diagnostics, it still

mentions diagnostic imaging recognizing that particularly in developing countries, it is deficient and that targeted efforts are needed.

WFNMB is also active in patient safety, as in last year's [2023 World Patient Safety Day](#) (September 17, 2023) where WFNMB participated into a well-attended [webinar](#) (>1000 connections) (WFNMB Panellist: Savvas Frangos, supported by Lizette Louw and John Prior (recording available at https://youtu.be/LzAQzZywLKA?si=p-ukEG672Q_h4vyw)).

Current Developments

Building on the successfully adopted [Resolution on Strengthening Diagnostics Capacity](#) presented at WHA76 in 2023, the WFNMB in coordination with the International Society of Radiology (ISR) is supporting the development of a dedicated upcoming WHA resolution specifically dedicated to improving access and availability of medical imaging, based on the successful Lancet Oncology Commission on Medical Imaging and Nuclear Medicine (<https://imagingcommission.org>).

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