

Seventieth World Health Assembly, 22–31 May 2017
United Nations, Palais des Nations, Geneva
Practical information for representatives of non-State actors
in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO)

Date and place of the Health Assembly

1. The Seventieth World Health Assembly will open in Geneva, Switzerland, on Monday, 22 May 2017, at 09:30; it will close on Wednesday, 31 May 2017. The Health Assembly will be held in the Palais des Nations, located near Place des Nations and Avenue de la Paix, and is most easily reached by the entrance gate on the Route de Pregny.

Access

2. Only those delegates that show a valid WHA badge will be given access to the WHO headquarters, the Palais des Nations, the Health Assembly, and the shuttle bus from the Palais des Nations to WHO. Non-State actors representatives are encouraged to wear their badges at all times, whether at WHO or the UN Palais des Nations.

Registration and collection of official WHA badges

Registration

3. Online registration is required for the World Health Assembly. To that end, the invitation letter to the Health Assembly provides a link to the WHO Governing Bodies Meeting Registration System, as well as a username and password that will give access to the system. Each non-State actor must designate a focal point to be responsible for registering the entity's delegation in the system, and giving their representatives copies of the invitation and enclosures as well as the entity's letter of credentials.

4. Online registration requires each non-State actor to upload a copy of its credentials, that is, a signed response to the invitation on the entity's letterhead indicating the name of the head of the delegation, the name(s) of the other representatives, function of each delegate in the non-State actor itself and, where appropriate, in an affiliated entity. In accordance with the submitted delegate information, official WHA badges will be prepared in advance. Registration should be completed by 8 May 2017.

5. Instructions for the online registration system are available on the Governance website at <http://www.who.int/governance/registration/en/index.html>. Queries concerning the system can be addressed by email to supportregistration@who.int or by telephone +41 22 791 2111.

6. As of January 2015, for security reasons, all delegates will be required to wear photo ID badges in order to access the meeting room. For this reason, during the online registration process, the Focal Point will be asked to upload a passport style photograph of each member of the delegation.

7. Guidance on the nature of the image required, and brief instructions on how to upload and resize an existing image you may have, are both available on WHO website: <http://www.who.int/governance/en/>.

8. An example of credentials is attached for ease of reference.

9. Registered representatives of non-State actors appear in the official WHO records as participants. Kindly note that during registration you are required to provide the affiliation of each of your delegates. While the non-State actors are invited to appoint a representative or representatives to attend the Assembly, you are kindly requested to avoid a disproportionate representation at the meetings.

Collection of badges

10. Upon arrival at WHO headquarters, delegates should show the credentials letter and proof of identity, for example, passport, to WHO Security. Once verified, delegates may then proceed to the Reception desk which will be open from Thursday, 18 May to Wednesday, 31 May 2017 at WHO headquarters.

11. At the Reception desk delegates should show their letter of credentials and the staff will provide a copy of a personal data form. In exchange for the completed form, delegates receive an official WHO Health Assembly badge.

Visa

12. Non-State actors representatives that require a visa to enter Switzerland must obtain a Schengen visa from the Swiss embassy or consulate in, or closest to, their country of residence; it cannot be obtained from the embassy of another Schengen country. Delivery of a Schengen visa takes between 7 and 21 days, so any visa application should be lodged well in advance of the expected date of travel. It is recommended that participants apply for a Schengen visa Type C, which entitles the holder to visit or transit other Schengen states, including neighbouring France. Applicants for a Schengen visa must attach a support letter to their applications. Requests for a visa support letter should be addressed as soon as possible to nonstateactors@who.int and include:

Name on passport:

Title:

Nationality:

Birth date:

Passport no:

Issue date:

Expiry date:

Please note that visa applications made in several different places will be rejected.

WHA documentation

13. As they become available, documents for the Health Assembly are posted on the WHO website: <http://www.who.int/gb/>. During the Health Assembly documents are prepared in packets on a daily basis according to the official languages of WHO: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. If you do not want all the documents in the language of your choice, please consult the meeting agenda which gives the document numbers for each item; a copy of the document(s) you are interested in can thus be requested by document number and by preferred language. The document distribution service is located close to the Inquiry Office at the Palais des Nations.

14. Useful documents are the “Guide for delegates to the World Health Assembly” which contains, inter alia, details of the organization of the Health Assembly and practical tips about transport, restaurants and telephone calls; and the daily “Journal” which contains the tentative programme of work of the Health Assembly, as well as information about WHO technical briefings and other meetings.

Seating

15. Seating is reserved in galleries for non-State actors in official relations. For the Plenary, the seating space is located on the 5th floor, which may be reached by using the lifts close to Doors 13 and 15. For Committees A and B seating has been reserved in the wings of the rooms.

Non-State actors statements at the Health Assembly

16. Non-State actors in official relations with WHO may request to speak in a WHO Governing Body meeting, for example before Committee A or B of the World Health Assembly, under a technical item in which the non-State actor has a particular expertise. The following process applies to such requests:

- Request should be addressed to the chairperson of the relevant Committee and refer to the agenda item number and title under which the statement is to be made. It should include the name of the non-State actor, the name of the registered representative who will deliver the statement, and contact information.
- Non-State actors wishing to have their name placed on the list of speakers for making a statement should notify the Secretariat of Partnerships and non-State actors Department (PNA) by email (nsastatements@who.int) latest by 08:00 am of the day of the meeting in question. While every attempt is made to keep non-State actors informed of the status of their requests, it is the responsibility of the non-State actor to verify with PNA Secretariat that the request has been received. PNA will inform the Chairperson of the meeting of the names of the non-State actors wishing to make a statement. The statements will be made only at the invitation of the Chairperson.
- Non-State actors are invited to post their statements on a dedicated website before the Health Assembly takes place to enable them to make their views known before the debates. For that purpose, please register your organization at <https://extranet.who.int/nonstateactorsstatements/>. Once the registration form has been submitted, a confirmation of the approval will be sent to the email address provided, after which it is possible to log on and submit a statement for posting. The statements are posted for a limited time, and will not be retained on the website thereafter. Summaries of the statements made at the Health Assembly can be viewed in the summary records of meetings, which will be published after the meetings.
- Statements should contain substantive comments directly relevant to the agenda item and the document prepared for the item. Please ensure the accuracy of the technical components. The titles of individuals, organizations and/or specific doctrines are expected to be correct and there should be no obvious spelling/grammatical errors. Statements should be limited to about 300 words (1960 characters) which should not take longer than two minutes to deliver. A footnote with a link to the non-State actors website for further information is allowed.
- Statements are expected not to raise issues of purely political nature that are unrelated to the topic, and should not contain any inappropriate or offensive reference to Member States. The nomenclature used to refer to Member States, or areas of Member States, must follow that of the United Nations. In case of doubt, please consult nsastatements@who.int.
- Statements longer than 300 words or those that do not follow the process described in this note will not be allowed to be posted on the website or can be withdrawn at the WHO's Secretariat's sole discretion.
- If you decide not to post the statement on the dedicated website, kindly send a copy of it to nsastatements@who.int before making the statement for it to appear in a written form in the summary records of the Health Assembly.

Speaking in front of a Committee

17. It is important that the representatives who will be making the statements follow the debate on the relevant agenda item. Shortly before the delegates of Member States have finished speaking on the item, the non-State actor representative should move into the allocated “Speakers” seat in the Committee Room. Please consult the seating plan to see where it is. If the “Speakers” seat is occupied, please request a member of the WHO Secretariat for help finding a seat. It is the responsibility of the non-State actor to ensure their presence in the Committee Room for the item.

18. In order to gain an idea of when an item will be discussed during the Health Assembly and in which Committee, please consult the “Journal” which sets out the schedule for the day. However, please be aware that schedules may change according to the dynamics of the debate; thus representatives are strongly urged to follow the relevant debate so as to be informed of any change in schedule. In case of delays, to facilitate the scheduling of the meetings, the Chairperson may decide to limit the number of statements to be delivered under an agenda item.

19. Should it not be possible for the non-State actor speaker to be present, he or she may arrange for someone else who is on the list of delegates of the same non-State actor as the original speaker and has registered and collected his or her badge, to deliver the statement. Please note that in those cases where a non-State actor has not been able to nominate another person to make the statement, it is not possible for the statement otherwise to be presented to the Health Assembly or appear in a written form in the records of the Health Assembly.

Non-State actor document display near the Non-State actors Liaison Office

20. Non-State actors in official relations may display examples of their documentation and literature either on tables or on poster boards that will be available in the display area outside the Non-State actors Liaison Office, at the Palais des Nations. Please note, however, that WHO reserves the right to withdraw materials. Unless specific arrangements have been made with staff in the Liaison Office for collection before the last day of the Assembly, the documents and literature will be recycled.

21. Please do not place documents, leaflets and other information material in the areas surrounding the meeting rooms or where WHO displays have been erected.

Non-State actors Office

22. An office (the number will appear in the “Guide for delegates to the World Health Assembly”) will be made available for the use of non-State actors on a first-come, first-served basis during the Health Assembly. It will be equipped with paper, computers, printers and telephones (for local calls). You may use the computers for word processing and access to the Internet. Photocopying machines will also be available free of charge for copying documents in reasonable quantities.

Side events

23. There will be a conference room available for non-State actors wishing to organize a side event during the Health Assembly from 22–31 May 2017. Preference will be given to meetings “cosponsored” by several non-State actors in official relations with WHO, and which are related to one of the technical agenda items in the provisional agenda.

24. The capacity of the conference room for side-events is approximately 110 persons. The side-events can take place during the weekdays, from 18:00 to 20:00. If necessary, fitting two shorter side-events after one another in that time slot will also be considered, if the demand for side-events exceeds the spaces available.

25. To request organizing a side-event at the Seventieth session of the World Health Assembly, please contact nsastatements@who.int to obtain the application form. Only the applications that are complete and returned by 3 April 2017 will be taken into consideration.

Mail and messages

26. Mail and messages for participants at the Health Assembly are deposited at the WHO Inquiry Office. The Office is located in the hall between Doors 13 and 15 at the Palais des Nations. It is open from 07:00 on the first day of the Health Assembly, remaining open during normal working hours for the duration of the Health Assembly. Please check regularly for mail and messages. Likewise, non-State actors may leave messages and mail there for other Health Assembly participants.

Non-State actors Liaison Office

27. Information about the location etc. of the Office will appear in the Guide for delegates to the World Health Assembly.

28. For enquiries about non-State actors participation in the Health Assembly, except registration, please send an email to nsastatements@who.int.

Non-State actor letterhead

World Health Organization
The Director
Department of Governing Bodies
20 Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27

Date

Dear Dr Armstrong,

Please find below the names of our representatives who will attend the Seventieth World Health Assembly, which will be held from 22 to 31 May 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Ms X. Smith

Business title

Affiliation (name of the non-State actor in official relations or its member organization, a branch, subsidiary or division, whichever applies to the delegate)

Dr D. Thompson

Business title

Affiliation (name of the non-State actor in official relations or its member organization, a branch, subsidiary or division, whichever applies to the delegate)

With best regards,

Name, signature and title of a senior official