

Tel. direct:
Fax direct:
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In reply please
refer to: GBS W3/87/1(73)

Your reference:

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to the non-State actors in official relations with WHO and has the honour to convene the Seventy-third World Health Assembly at 12:00 (CET) on 18 May 2020. The Health Assembly will close no later than Tuesday 19 May, 2020.

In light of the current global situation, the Health Assembly will be held virtually, using video conferencing technologies. Details for accessing the virtual platform will be provided following completion of the registration process.

Online registration is required for the Health Assembly. Registration can be initiated as of 30 April 2020 by going to the following link: (....)

Instructions for online registration are available for downloading from the Governance website (.....). Registration should be completed by 14 May 2020.

The provisional agenda for the Health Assembly was agreed by the Executive Board at its 146th session and is available in document A73/1 (https://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha73.html).
... The abridged provisional agenda, which sets forth items proposed for consideration during the May meeting of WHA73, is enclosed.

Documents for the Seventy-third session of the World Health Assembly can be accessed on the Internet through the WHO website (<http://www.who.int/gb/>), as they become available.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to the non-State actors in official relations with WHO the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 4 May 2020

... ENCLS: (3)

WHA/20.3

Seventy-third World Health Assembly, 18–19 May 2020
Virtual meeting
Practical information for representatives of non-State actors
in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO)

Date of the Health Assembly

1. The Seventy-third World Health Assembly will be convened at 12:00 (CET) on 18 May 2020. The Health Assembly will close no later than Tuesday, 19 May 2020.
2. In light of the current global situation, the Health Assembly will be held virtually, using video conferencing technologies. Details for accessing the virtual platform will be provided following completion of the registration process.

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.
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. The WHO Office of Governing Bodies will verify the information received from the Focal Point in the registration system to generate the List of Participants and send the log in details to access the virtual meeting.
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 (...) or by telephone (...).
6. An example of credentials is attached for ease of reference.
7. Registered representatives of non-State actors appear in the official WHO records as participants. Kindly note that during registration the affiliation of each delegate is required. While the non-State actors are invited to appoint a representative or representatives to attend the Assembly, disproportionate representation at the meetings is to be avoided.

WHA documentation

8. As they become available, documents for the Health Assembly are posted on the WHO website: <http://www.who.int/gb/>. The documents are available in the official languages of WHO: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Non-State actors written statements at the Health Assembly

9. Considering the specific arrangements set for the Seventy-third World Health Assembly, Non-State actors in official relations with WHO have the exceptional possibility to post written statements, under provisional agenda item 3 Address by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, which will be devoted to the Covid-19 pandemic response in advance of the opening of the Health Assembly. The following process applies:

- In order to post written statements, non-State actors are invited to register at (...). Once the registration form has been submitted, an approval email will be sent with relevant details on the process to be followed.
- Written statements should focus on technical issues and should be directly relevant to the technical item. Accuracy of the technical components should be considered. The titles of individuals, organizations and/or specific doctrines are expected to be correct and there should be no spelling/grammatical errors.
- Written statements should not 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 (...)
- Written statements should be limited to about 300 words (1960 characters).
- Written statements that do not follow the process described in this note will not be posted on the website and can be withdrawn at the WHO's Secretariat's sole discretion.
- To note, the written statements are posted for a limited time, and will not be retained on the website thereafter.

Due Diligence and Non-State Actors Team

10. Due Diligence and Non-State Actors (DAN) serves as the focal point for assisting non-State actors during the World Health Assembly. For enquiries about non-State actors participation in the Health Assembly, except registration, please send an email to (...).

11. Queries concerning the online registration system can be addressed by email to (...), or by telephone (...).

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 Seventy-third World Health Assembly, which will be held virtually from 18 to 19 May 2020.

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

Provisional agenda (abridged)¹

PLENARY

1. Opening of the Health Assembly²

1.2 Election of the President

1.3 Election of the five Vice-Presidents³

1.4 Adoption of the agenda

Documents A73/1 and A73/1 Add.1

3. Address by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General

Document A73/3

4. Invited speaker(s)

6. Executive Board: election

9. Closure of the Health Assembly⁴

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¹ In the context of the restrictions imposed in response to the pandemic of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), and through a written silence procedure, the Executive Board has approved the arrangements for a virtual World Health Assembly to be held, using video conferencing technology. This *de minimis* session will only consider an abridged version of the Provisional agenda.

² During the opening of the Health Assembly, Member States will be invited to also consider the adoption of special procedures, the verification of credentials and the adoption of a written silence procedure. Please see the timetable for more details.

³ The Committees of the Health Assembly will not convene.

⁴ Under this item, Member States will be invited to consider suspending the Health Assembly until it can meet in a resumed session later in 2020.