



GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATE ORIENTATION SESSION

A ROADMAP THROUGH THE POLICIES,
PROCEDURES AND PURPOSE OF THE
WMA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



ROLE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- Most powerful body of WMA to adopt official, permanent WMA policy on matters of
 - medical ethics
 - socio-medical affairs and
 - health-related human rights
- Delegates represent the views and positions of his or her national medical association

AGENDA OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



- **Most important: GA Agenda and Council Report**
- **Review the full Council Report to participate effectively in the decision-making process.**
- **There may be new documents, but for most of these Members had opportunities to provide input (but be aware of up-coming emergency issues.)**
- **Seek out Council Members before to discuss concerns.**
- **Not sure whom to approach? – Please ask WMA Secretariat.**

VOTING IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: RULES AND PROCESS



- **The rules and processes may be different from those you use in your home organization.**
- **Confused or concerned about the process?
Ask the Chair to slow down or stop to explain what is happening!**
- **The Chair will allow open discussion on all topics on the agenda, but it is important to finish the entire agenda - discussion time is usually limited.**
- **Be very precise during discussions!**
 - **Avoid long speeches and**
 - **try not to repeat points that have already been made.**

MEDICAL ETHICS AND SOCIO-MEDICAL AFFAIRS POLICY PROCESS



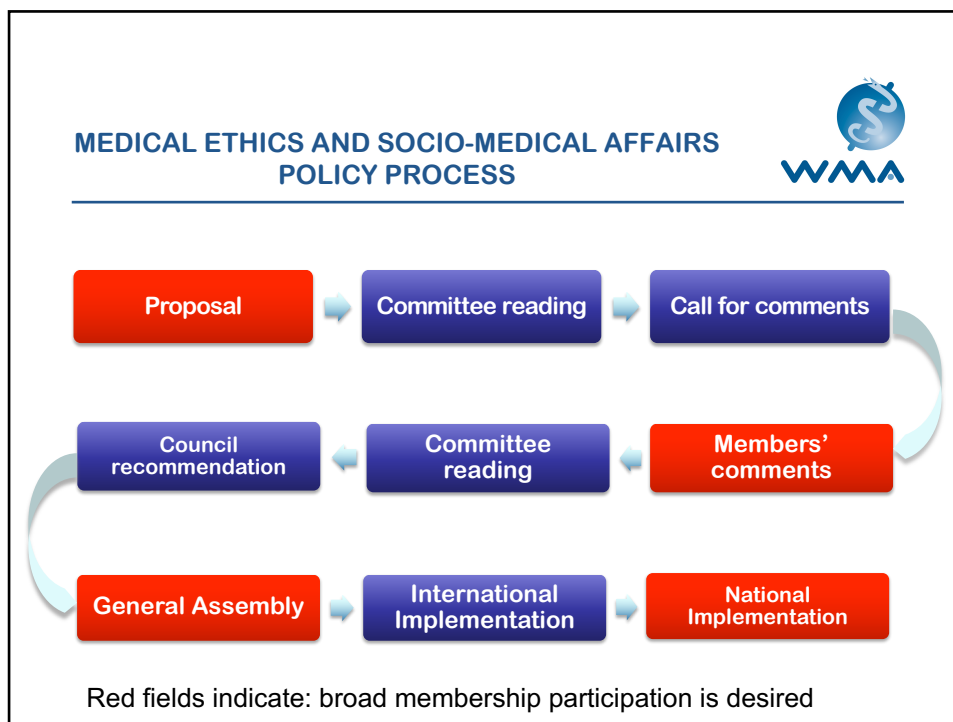
- The policy process concludes with the General Assembly. But there is the opportunity to provide input throughout the year.
- Respond to requests for comments on policy documents! This increases your chance to be successful in your efforts to influence WMA policy positions.

VOTING




Voting in all WMA meetings is based on standard parliamentary procedure

- Any delegate can make a motion to an issue set forth by the agenda.
- That motion must be seconded by another delegate.
- Once a motion has been seconded, the Chair will invite discussion.
- After discussion is finished the Chair will ask the delegates to vote by raising cards provided by the Secretariat that indicate the number of votes the NMA is entitled to.
 - The chair will begin by asking for a count of those “FOR” the motion, then those “AGAINST” the motion and then those who “ABSTAIN” from voting
- The votes will be counted and the Chair will announce whether the motion is passed or defeated



Conclusions



- The WMA General Assembly decides on all policy – be an active part of it
- Your vote counts – but: be prepared, be precise, be considerate
- Take influence! Participate throughout the year by
 - making proposals
 - responding to the calls for comments and
 - attending the council sessions or by
 - corresponding with council members.
- Don't be shy – if things are unclear, please ask – most likely you will find that you are not alone.



Thank you!
Questions or comments?

*Caring,
Ethics,
Science*



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