



WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

**Activity Report to the
226th WMA Council Session
(November 2023 – March 2024)**

ACTIVITY REPORT TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER I ETHICS, ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION

1. Ethics

- 1.1 Revision of the Declaration of Helsinki
- 1.2 Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration

2. Human Rights

- 2.1 Right to health
- 2.2 Protecting patients and doctors
- 2.3 Violence against healthcare in areas of armed conflict and other situations of violence
- 2.4 Prevention of torture and ill-treatment
- 2.5 Health through peace
- 2.6 Sexual orientation and gender identity

3. Public Health

- 3.1 Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)
- 3.2 Communicable diseases
- 3.3 Health and populations exposed to discrimination
- 3.4 Social determinants of health (SDH) and universal health coverage (UHC)
- 3.5 Health and the environment
- 3.6 Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Medical Technologies

4. Health Systems

- 4.1 Patient safety
- 4.2 Antimicrobial resistance & One Health
- 4.3 Health emergencies
- 4.4 Health workforce

5. Health Policy & Education

- 5.1 Medical and health policy development and education
- 5.2 Support for national constituent members

CHAPTER II PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION

6. World Health Organization (WHO)

7. Other UN agencies

8. Intergovernmental cooperation: World Government Summit, Dubai, UAE, 11-14 February 2024

9. World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA)

10. Medical support for Ukraine

11. WMA Cooperating Centres

12. World Federation for Medical Education

13. Vienna Congress 28-29 January 2024

14. World Continuing Education Alliance (WCEA)

15. Other partnerships or collaborations with health and human rights organizations

CHAPTER III COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

16. WMA Newsletter

17. WMA social media (Twitter and Facebook)

18. World Medical Journal

19. WMA Annual Report

20. Press Officer Role

21. Secondments/internships

22. WMA Glossary

CHAPTER IV OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

23. STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2030

CHAPTER V ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CHAPTER I ETHICS, ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION

1. ETHICS

1.1 Revision of the Declaration of Helsinki

The 220th Council (Paris, April 2022) decided to set up a workgroup to review the current version of the Declaration of Helsinki (DoH). The workgroup is led by Dr Jack Resneck Jr. of the American Medical Association. During the revision process several regional/thematic meetings were organised:

- Asian region in Tel Aviv, Israel on 9-11 December 2022
- Latin American region in Sao Paulo, Brazil on 24-25 February 2023.
- European region in Copenhagen, Denmark on 21-22 September 2023
- Pacific region in Tokyo, Japan on 30 November - 1 December 2023
- Conference on Research in Resource-Poor Settings in the Vatican on 18-19 January 2024
- African region in Johannesburg, South Africa on 18-19 February 2024

The following meetings are planned to take place before the General Assembly in Helsinki in 2024 where the revised version will be adopted:

- Conference on Research with Vulnerable People in Munich, Germany on 14-15 May 2024
- Under consideration: Special Session at the 16th World Conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law in Brasilia, Brazil 24-26 July 2024
- Conference on Advocacy and Communication in Washinton, DC, United States on 14-16 August 2024

In order to maximise input by all stakeholders and the public, the workgroup organised two separate periods for public comment. A phase 1 public comments period took place in February 2024 to address the issues arising from the regional meetings. A phase 2 comments period will follow in the spring of 2024 once additional topics have been addressed.

The workgroup intends to deliver a final updated draft of the Declaration of Helsinki to the Medical Ethics Committee of the World Medical Association. It is intended that this document be considered by the Council and the General Assembly in Helsinki, Finland in October 2024.

Some of the WHO Ethics Department's findings were presented at the DoH meeting in Copenhagen in September 2023.

1.2 Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration

In 2014, the WMA in partnership with the International Alliance of Patients Organizations, International Council of Nurses, International Pharmaceutical Federation (pharmacists) and International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA), drafted a consensus-based framework agreement to publicly align on shared ethical values. The Consensus Framework was established for ethical

collaboration between patients' organisations, healthcare professionals and the pharmaceutical industry, in support of high-quality patient care.

This Consensus Framework and the accompanying resources are intended to serve as a toolkit for those associations, groups and alliances who wish to develop their own policies or national frameworks.

In May 2024, the 10th anniversary of the Consensus Framework will be celebrated. On this occasion the partners will discuss whether the framework needs to be extended, if new topics should be included and how to foster uptake, especially in Africa.

In line with the IFPMA Africa strategy, to contribute to strengthening Africa's health ecosystem and in solving the region's health challenges, WMA and IFPMA are working on fostering awareness, development and implementation of a consensus framework in the African region. In addition to this, WMA and IFPMA have intensified high level discussions on ethics and compliance between physicians and the pharmaceutical industry.

2. HUMAN RIGHTS

2.1 Right to health

The WMA Secretariat follows the activities of the UN Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, Dr [Tlaleng Mofokeng](#) (South Africa).

2.2 Protecting patients and doctors

Actions of support

Country/ topic	Case
<p>ISRAEL</p> <p>Oct. 2023 – Feb. 2024</p> <p>Source: Israeli Medical Ass. Media</p>	<p>Further to the large-scale attack launched by Hamas on Israel on 7th October, the WMA issued a statement to condemn the attack, demanding the immediate liberation of hostages.</p> <p>The WMA has subsequently highlighted the principles of medical neutrality, and called on all parties in the conflict to respect International Law and the integrity of unrelated civilian populations.</p> <p>In December, the WMA sent out a call for Donations to the ICRC and Doctors Without Borders to support the humanitarian situation in Gaza.</p> <p>On 16 February, the WMA reiterated its call for medical neutrality, demanding the safety of all civilians, especially children, as well as healthcare personnel and facilities.</p> <p>In February 2024 WMA issued another Press Statement calling for a “humanitarian pause in order to allow for the safe delivery of humanitarian and medical aid and the release and safe passage of hostages.”</p>
<p>IRAN</p> <p>Jan. 2024</p> <p>Source: Amnesty International Associate Members Media</p>	<p>In January, the Secretariat was alerted to the fact that Dr Djalali, who was sentenced to death on alleged espionage charges in October 2017, was again under imminent threat of execution. Dr Djalali is unanimously recognised as a specialist in emergency medicine who practices his profession peacefully. All reports agree that he is a prisoner of conscience. An open letter was sent to the Iranian authorities asking for his immediate and unconditional release and for a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards its abolition.</p>
<p>PAKISTAN</p> <p>Oct.2023</p> <p>Sources: Pakistan Med. Ass. Physicians for Human Rights</p>	<p>In October, the WMA sent a letter to the authorities of Pakistan in support of Dr Yasmin Rachid, a 70-year-old Pakistani gynecologist, in detention on the grounds of alleged “inflammatory speeches” during a crackdown on riots on 9 May. Dr Yasmin Rashid was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2020 and was undergoing lengthy treatment. Following her detention, the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) has allowed her to undergo cancer-related treatment. In the letter, the WMA urges the authorities to closely monitor her situation and ensure that she receives the necessary and desired medical care for her cancer. The WMA also expressed its concern that the detention of Dr Yasmin Rashid constitutes a violation of the fundamental human right to freedom of speech and asked that all charges related to her freedom of expression be dropped.</p>
<p>SOUTH KOREA</p> <p>March 2024</p> <p>Sources:</p>	<p>At the beginning of March, the WMA issued two public statements in support of the Korean Medical Association and the physicians on strike against the government's unilateral decision to drastically increase medical student admissions. In these statements, the WMA reaffirmed the right of physicians to take collective action, including strike action, and strongly condemned the actions of the Korean</p>

<p>Korean Med.Ass. Associate Members Media</p>	<p>government in attempting to silence strikers and the elected leadership of the Korean Medical Association through harsh measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Medical Association Stands Firm in Support of Korean Medical Association Amid Government-Induced Crisis • World Medical Association Clarifies Position on Collective Action and Condemns Government Interference in Korean Medical Association
<p>RUSSIA Oct.2023 <u>Sources:</u> John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health The Lancet</p>	<p>In October, the Secretariat was made aware that Ukrainian military health personnel were being unlawfully detained in Russia and exposed to ill-treatment. The information is based on an article in the Lancet (September 2023) reporting 500 Ukrainian physicians, nurses and others in detention in Russia, and on the website of the Military Medics of Ukraine (a new group composed of families of military doctors).</p> <p>The Secretariat contacted the President of the National Medical Chamber of Russia to share this information and, if it is confirmed, to recommend that he take immediate action with the Russian authorities in order to comply with international humanitarian law, according to which medical personnel must not be treated as prisoners of war, and with their obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which they ratified in 1987. The Secretariat has received no response.</p> <p>The information was also shared with the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM) and the ICRC.</p>
<p>SUDAN Dec. 2023 <u>Source:</u> OHCHR, Media</p>	<p>Following the statement by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk on attacks on civilians in Sudan last December, the Secretariat reiterated WMA's call for an immediate ceasefire and the protection of healthcare based on the WMA Resolution adopted in Kigali in October.</p>
<p>TURKEY Oct. 2023-Feb. 2024 <u>Sources:</u> TMA Physicians for Human Rights Foundation of Turkey</p>	<p>The Secretariat and WMA's members remain mobilised to support the TMA, which has been facing pressure from the Turkish authorities since October 2022.</p> <p>In a joint effort to support the TMA and its mission to uphold medical ethics and human rights, the WMA and the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) issued an open letter in early November urging the Turkish authorities to drop charges against TMA's leaders. Despite this and other appeals from the global health community, a civil court in Ankara arbitrarily dismissed the 11 physicians from their elected positions on the Central Council of the Turkish Medical Association for threatening national security by acting outside the scope of the Association's mission. The Court decision was unequivocally condemned by the WMA and its partners: Turkish Court Strips Nation's Top Doctors of their Positions (01/12/2023) Reinstate the Turkish Medical Association's Central Council immediately (06/12/2023)</p> <p>The TMA has appealed the decision.</p> <p>Şebnem Korur Fincancı, President of the TMA, who was sentenced to 2 years, 8 months and 15 days imprisonment on charges of "propaganda for a terrorist organization" has appealed against the sentence. The condemnation by the lower court in Istanbul was approved by the intermediate supreme court in early February. The TMA is preparing an appeal to the upper Court. The WMA stands ready to intervene.</p>

2.3 Violence against healthcare in areas of armed conflict and other situations of violence

“Health Care in Danger” (HCiD) initiative

The WMA Secretariat has a close working relationship with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) headquarters within the context of the [“Health Care in Danger” \(HCiD\) initiative](#).

During the reporting period, the Secretariat attended the **regular meetings of the global HCiD Community of Concerns (CoC)** organized by the ICRC, which bring together representatives of the WMA, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM), the International Council of Nurses (ICN), the International Hospital Federation (IHF), the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition, Médecins du Monde and the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME), among others. These meetings allow for an exchange of updated information between partners and the exploration of possible joint actions on advocacy and the monitoring of violence. During the reporting period, the CoC discussed the WHO Global Health and Peace Initiative as well as the issue of misinformation/disinformation affecting the security of health organisations.

Collaborative Forum on Attacks against Health Professionals

The WMA is part of the Collaborative Forum on Attacks against Health Professionals initiated by the Committee on Human Rights (CHR) of the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) to engage in information sharing and explore possibilities for individual and joint action. During the reporting period, C. Delorme participated in the Fall Meeting of the Forum to Address Attacks on Health Professionals (19 October) where she had the opportunity to report on WMA’s recent activities to address violence against physicians.

Other activities related to violence against health care

The WMA continues to denounce attacks against health care across the globe (see item 2.2.1) and to advocate for sustainable prevention strategies globally, including in the context of the current intergovernmental negotiations for a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (see item 4.4).

In October, the ICRC invited the WMA to contribute to a **project on the use of emblems and other signs to protect healthcare**. The aims of this project are to deepen the knowledge of the use of distinctive emblems to protect healthcare during conflicts and to investigate the use of signs other than emblems to mark healthcare across all contexts. The project includes a **qualitative study**, led by researchers from Kings College London, for which the ICRC has identified several interlocutors whose contributions based on experience and knowledge would very beneficial. Medical associations form part of these interlocutors, as well as the International Committee of Military Medicine (ICMM). The study focuses on selected countries in order to examine practices in greater detail. The Secretariat contacted WMA constituent members in the selected countries to invite them to contribute to the study (Australia, Brazil, Colombia, DRC, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Germany, India, Lithuania, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Spain, South Africa, UK, US). Most members have so far responded positively to the invitation.

Amid various military conflicts in the world, the **World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA) started working on an open letter** last December reiterating the principles of Humanitarian Law, especially the protection of health personnel, health facilities and vehicles, but also the strict prohibition on the abuse of health facilities, vehicles and their personnel, to harbour or transport troops or to launch attacks from them. The statement is currently being finalized and the WHPA is working on a dedicated website to enable all interested healthcare professionals and organizations to sign it.

In March, Dr Steinum Þórðardóttir, chair of the Medical Ethics Committee, made a keynote speech on **the experience of the WMA on human rights violations occurring in conflict zones** at an educational event “Healing Beyond Borders: AMSA-EMSA Medical Ethics Alliance”, a collaborative initiative between the European Medical Students' Association (EMSA) and the American Medical Student Association (AMSA), seeking to equip future healthcare leaders with the practical skills and ethical knowledge to navigate the complexities of medical ethics with a global perspective.

2.4 Prevention of torture and ill-treatment

The WMA Secretariat follows relevant international activities in this area, including those of the Human Rights Council.

Psychiatric treatment – Mental health

Since 2017, the WMA Secretariat, with the support of Dr Miguel Jorge, psychiatrist and previous WMA President, has been monitoring international activities related to the promotion of mental health as a global priority and a fundamental human right with the aim of providing the physicians' perspective in the discussion.

In February, the WMA participated in a targeted consultation launched by the Steering Committee for human rights in the fields of biomedicine and health (CDBIO) of the Council of Europe on the **draft Recommendation on respect for autonomy in mental healthcare**. The Recommendation aims to provide common principles to promote a human rights-based approach in mental healthcare, safeguarding the rights and self-determination of persons with mental health problems. The WMA's comments, drafted in consultation with Dr Miguel Jorge, have been shared with the World Psychiatric Association (WPA), with which the WMA regularly collaborates, particularly in the context of the global debate on the right to mental health.

2.5 Health through peace

Prevention of nuclear weapons

Further to the adoption of the [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#), the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), the WMA, the International Council of Nurses (ICN), the international Federation of Medical Students (IFMSA) and the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) have been collaborating on the need to promote the global health imperative to eliminate nuclear weapons and to advocate for the ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Lujain Al-Qodmani was one of the keynote speakers at the side-event organized by the IPPNW during the 2nd Meeting of States Parties of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 30 November in New York.

During the reporting period, the Secretariat had regular contacts with IPPNW to discuss strategies to place the issue of nuclear weapons' prevention on the global health agenda, in particular through WHO.

WHO Global Health and Peace Initiative (GPHI)

The Secretariat continues monitoring the development of the [WHO proposed Global Health and Peace Initiative \(GPHI\)](#), in collaboration with the ICRC, MSF (Médecins sans Frontières) and ICN (International Council of Nurses), calling for more clarity and details to guarantee the impartial provision of health care and adequate working conditions to health personnel, therefore allowing them to strictly comply with their ethical duty to protect the health and well-being of their patients. In late October, C. Delorme met with representatives of the WHO Inter-Agency Policy for Emergencies Unit to discuss these ethical issues.

The [proposal was revised several times since December 2022](#) within the context of the WHO consultation process with civil society and Member States, and is still under discussion.

2.6 Sexual orientation and gender identity

In July 2021, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) contacted the Secretariat recommending that the WMA consider an **amicus brief submission as a third party in connection with the case Semenya v Switzerland at the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)**, given its [position](#) in April 2019, raising strong concerns on the ethical validity of the World Athletics Federation's regulation. The WMA agreed and has since then been collaborating with the [Global Health Justice Partnership \(GHJP\)](#) of the Yale Law School and School of Public Health, which has sound expertise grounded in both health and law. A joint [amicus brief](#) was submitted in October 2021 and the European Court handed down its [decision](#) on 11 July 2023, ruling in favour of Caster Semenya. Referring to our amicus brief, the Court specifies that imposing a treatment that may cause significant side effects, not for strictly medical reasons but in order to comply with the eligibility conditions set out in the DSD Regulations, is not compatible with international standards of medical ethics.

The request from Switzerland to refer the case to the **Grand chamber** having been accepted, the WMA and GHJP submitted an intervention in early January based on the amicus brief, which was updated in light of [new DSD regulations](#) (March 2023).

In October, the Secretariat was contacted by the lawyer of another athlete, a Kenyan runner, asking that the WMA serve as a witness to challenge the new DSD regulations before the [Court of Arbitration of Sport \(CAS\)](#) from the strict point of view of medical ethics. The case raises the exact same substantive issues as that of Caster Semenya. The WMA Executive Committee accepted the request and appointed Dr Montgomery, former Chair of Council, to represent the WMA in this case.

3. PUBLIC HEALTH

3.1 Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

General

Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs), including cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and diabetes, as well as mental health disorders, are now the dominant cause of death and disability across the world.

WMA is a member of the WHO Global Noncommunicable Diseases Platform (GNP), which is a Department in the Division for UHC, Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases. The overall purpose of GNP is “to coordinate the United Nations system and mobilize non-State actors and complement and enhance WHO’s work in supporting governments to develop whole-of-government and whole-of-society responses to address Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target 3.4 and other NCD-related SDGs.”.

WMA is also a member of the WHO Civil Society Working Group on NCDs. The aim of this workgroup is to provide recommendations to the WHO Director-General on how to mobilize civil society in a meaningful manner to advocate for i) a highly successful fourth high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on NCDs in September 2025, and ii) to encourage strong civil society involvement and government commitment to include prevention and control of NCDs and the promotion, protection and care of mental health in national UHC benefit packages and strengthen public health functions and institutions to be more responsive to NCDs, mental health and wellbeing.

At the World Health Summit, WMA was invited to speak at a session on empowering the health workforce for NCDs. Dr Osahon Enabulele highlighted the current challenges of health professionals, especially post-COVID, and emphasised the need for universal health coverage implemented through the tool of primary health care, of which the protection and safety of health professionals must be a cornerstone.

The WMA delivered a [statement](#) on the follow-up to the Political Declaration of the Third High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases at the **15th session of WHO Executive Board (January 2024)**.

Tobacco

The WMA is involved in the implementation process of the [WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control \(FCTC\)](#). The FCTC is an international treaty that condemns tobacco as an addictive substance, imposes bans on advertising and promotion of tobacco, and reaffirms the right of all people to the highest standard of health. WMA attended the last annual meeting with NGOs accredited as Observers to the Conference of the Parties (COP), which provided an update on the decisions taken by the COP and presented the advocacy strategy of FCTC to raise awareness about and address the devastating environmental consequences of tobacco.

Alcohol

Within the context of the collaboration plan between WHO and WMA for the period 2022-2024, the WMA is contributing to the development, promotion and implementation of the WHO action plan 2022-2030 to effectively implement the WHO Global Strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol.

The WMA was invited to take part in the [7th Global Alcohol Policy Conference \(GAPC\)](#), held in Cape Town, South Africa on 24-26 October 2023. The event was organized by the Global Alcohol Policy Alliance (GAPA), a WMA key partner in this area, as well as the South Africa Medical Research Council (SAMRC), the Southern African Alcohol Policy Alliance (SAAPA), and the South Africa Department of Social Development. The Secretariat shared the information within the membership and established contact between the South African Medical Association and GAPA's local partners.

3.2 Communicable diseases

Immunisation

The Steering Group on Influenza Vaccination, of which WMA is a member, has developed this year's flu immunisation campaign around health professionals. Health professionals are one of the most trusted sources of health information and can play an essential role in informing and motivating both their peers and the people they care for. This is not only true for seasonal influenza vaccination campaigns; it applies to all types of immunisations. To enable HCPs to do this important work, and to tackle the challenge of rising vaccine hesitancy, they need to have the necessary knowledge, tools and adequate resources to not only administer but also communicate and inform about immunisation.

3.3 Health and populations exposed to discrimination

Women and health

In the run up to the International day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25 November, Lujain Al-Qodmani, WMA President, signed the [Kigali Declaration to end FGM/C](#) "**From Rhetoric to Reality: Closing the Funding Gap and Uniting for Action to End Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting**", an initiative of the Global Platform for Action to end FGM/C.

Refugees, migrants & access to health

The WMA Secretariat follows the agenda of the Health and Migration Programme of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and promotes its activities related to health issues, while bringing forward the recommendations of WMA policies related to migrants' health care.

3.4 Social determinants of health (SDH) and universal health coverage (UHC)

One of the most important global health topics is how countries can offer universal health coverage to all, especially in marginalised societies, and protect people from financial

hardship. The UN General Assembly held the first ever **High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage** in New York in September 2019.

A second High Level Meeting (HLM) on Universal Health Coverage took place in September 2023 and WMA was represented by Dr Lujain Algodmani.

UHC2030 is the global movement to build stronger health systems for UHC. Members are countries, multi-lateral organisations, global initiatives, philanthropic organisations and NGOs. WMA is an active member in this network and was appointed in the past to the civil society advisory group. WMA has now been selected to be a member of the UHC2030 Task Force. The network builds connections through joint high-level events and gatherings and contributes advocacy, tools, guidance, knowledge and learning.

The WMA delivered a [statement](#) at the **15^{4th} session of WHO Executive Board (January 2024)** on:

- Universal Health Coverage appreciating the clarity of the WHO report on the stagnation of progress in health coverage and the lack of concrete measures to catch up, namely regarding mental and maternal and child health.
- Social Determinants of Health recommending that social determinants of health be monitored through a multisectoral approach, including physicians, and urging Member States to focus on sustainable, resilient Universal Health Coverage systems which comprehensively address the needs of vulnerable populations and the differential impacts of climate change.

3.5 Health and the environment

WMA Environment Workgroup

The 223rd WMA Council in Nairobi (April 2023) decided to set up a Workgroup on Environment mandated to support the advocacy work of the WMA in the field of environment and health and to organise an Environment Caucus in parallel with statutory WMA meetings to promote discussion and exchange of information within the WMA membership at large. The Workgroup is currently chaired by Ankush Bansal, Associate Member.

During the reporting period, the Environment Workgroup met twice to prepare the Environment Caucus meeting scheduled in Seoul, to discuss opportunities to develop / update WMA policies on environment as well as WMA's advocacy work in view of the UN Climate change conference (COP29) in Azerbaijan (November 2024).

Climate change

The WMA is a member of the [WHO-Civil Society Working Group to Advance Action on Climate Change and Health](#) set up in May 2019. The Working Group aims to foster a strong and sustained health voice, informing decision-making on climate change nationally and internationally and driving urgent action on climate change.

The proposed strategic partnership is well in line with the agreed collaboration plan between WHO and WMA for the period 2022-2024¹.

[UN Climate Change Conference \(COP28\), Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 30/11-12/12/2023](#) – During the reporting period, a WMA delegation, coordinated by Lujain Al-Qodmani for the first week and Ankush Bansal for the second week, attended the Conference. Lujain Al-Qodmani, President of WMA, spoke at the first ministerial high-level meeting on health organized at a COP. The WMA delegation was quite active in side-events as presenters or panelists. The WMA Annual Report 2023 includes a report on the activities of the delegation. An article will also be published in the World Medical Journal.

Prior to the Conference, the WMA signed the [Health Community Call for a Phase-out of Fossil Fuels](#), and supported the initiative of a [COP28 declaration on climate and health](#) calling on nations for rapid, sustainable, equitable action on climate change from the perspective of health.

Under the initiative of the Global Climate and Health Alliance (GCHA), in September 2022 the WMA joined other global health actors in supporting **a call for a new World Health Assembly Resolution on Climate Change and Health** based on a One Health approach to bring together evidence and actions to reflect the complex, interconnected reality of climate change and health. The 154th session of the WHO Executive Board (January 2024) examined a [1st draft resolution](#) and decided to recommend its adoption by the next World Health Assembly, subject to negotiations continuing until May. The WMA made a [statement](#) at the Executive Board session supporting the development of such a resolution, while asking for stronger language.

Air pollution

The WMA Workgroup on Environment plans to promote the [WHO Air Pollution and Health Training toolkit for the health workforce \(APHT\)](#) to which the WMA has contributed. A WHO representative will be invited to present it at the next Environment Caucus to be held in Seoul (April 2024).

The advocacy work of the Secretariat on air pollution is otherwise mainly incorporated in its activities related to climate change.

Chemical safety

The WMA sees the reduction of environmental contamination with mercury as a critical public health issue and the removal of mercury from health care as an unfinished agenda.

The WMA is a member of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), a policy framework to promote chemical safety around the world and to minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health.

On 30 September 2023, the [Global Framework on Chemicals - for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste](#) - was adopted, as a successor to SAICM.

¹ Other members of the WG include: International Council of Nurses, International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Health Care Without Harm, Health and Environment Alliance.

Dr Peter Orris, former co-chair of the WMA Environment Caucus and expert on the WMA Environment Working Group, follows discussions on the global chemicals agenda, including negotiations on the implementation of the [Minamata Mercury Convention](#).

WMA Green news

The WMA is partnered with the Florida Medical Association (FMA) on a joint project “**My Green Doctor**”. This project is a medical office environmental management service offered free of charge to members of the World Medical Association (WMA) and the Florida Medical Association (FMA). The initial version of My Green Doctor was launched by the FMA on World Earth Day 2010. In June 2014, the WMA and FMA agreed to work together on this project. My Green Doctor provides a free practice management tool designed by doctors to make medical offices more environmentally friendly. The [My Green Doctor](#) website is available in the “What we do – Education” section of the WMA website. Calls to action are regularly published on the WMA social media pages and in the WMA Newsletter.

3.6 Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Medical Technologies

In August 2023, the Secretariat was contacted by the Health Division of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) offering to collaborate with the WMA on a **survey on the implications of artificial intelligence tools on the healthcare workforce** (perceptions, involvement, and readiness of medical associations for the adoption of artificial intelligence). The Secretariat contributed to the development of the survey. The survey (available in English, French and Spanish) was first tested on a **pilot group of WMA members**, including medical associations represented in the Executive Committee and in the WG on Medical Technologies. It was then circulated to all WMA constituent members. In January, the OECD Health Division consulted the Secretariat on the preliminary report based on the survey results and on the next steps to be considered.

In December, the Secretariat circulated to WMA members a call for contributions from the Council of Europe's Steering Committee for Human Rights in Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO) for a report on the **impact of AI on the patient-doctor relationship**.

4. HEALTH SYSTEMS

4.1 Patient safety

In 2021, the World Health Assembly adopted the “**Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021–2030**”. The global action plan provides strategic direction and a list of suggested actions for all stakeholders for eliminating avoidable harm in health care and improving patient safety in different practice domains through policy actions, as well as for the implementation of recommendations at the point of care. The World Health Assembly also requested the WHO to report back on the progress in its implementation every two years until 2031. In this context, the first-ever Global Patient Safety Report was adopted in 2023.

In December 2023, the WMA participated in the WHO global experts’ consultation to review the results of the ongoing Member State survey and gave input on the outline and content of the Global Patient Safety Report 2023.

World Patient Safety Day 2023 had the theme "Engaging patients for patient safety" and the slogan "Elevate the voice of patients!". WMA is working closely with WHO through its membership of the WHO steering committee for World Patient Safety Day on defining the themes and the planning of this day.

The VI Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety entitled ‘Bringing and sustaining changes in patient safety policies and practices’ will take place in Santiago de Chile in mid-April 2024. WMA was invited by the Chilean Government to this summit. The summit will analyse how different states have managed to implement, develop and give sustainability to different strategies with the purpose of providing safe health care. This will happen within the framework of the seven strategic objectives of the Plan of Global Action for patient safety, exchanging experiences about learned lessons in the design and implementation processes, the results obtained and future challenges, in order to translate them into national commitments that imply concrete actions.

4.2 Antimicrobial resistance & One Health

During World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2023, WMA organised a webinar on Engaging Healthcare professionals and civil society towards the AMR High-level meeting on 22 November 2023.

In September, prior to the UN General Assembly, the UN GA President is convening a High-level Meeting on AMR (HLM AMR). In the month before this the WMA will be engaged in negotiations on the outcome document of the HLM AMR.

WMA recently joined the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform, that aims to engage and empower a multitude of cross-sectoral stakeholder voices to preserve antimicrobials as lifesaving medicines and ensure their responsible use under a One Health approach. The secretariat of this platform is hosted by the Quadripartite organisations (FAO, UNEP, WHO, and WOA).

WMA is participating in the global consultation on the **WHO** draft People-Centred Framework for addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the human health sector. The framework consists of interventions that span four pillars critical to overcome people

and systems challenges in addressing AMR: (1) prevention of infections, (2) access to essential health services, (3) timely and accurate diagnosis and (4) appropriate and quality-assured treatment. The people-centred framework should inform governments on the prioritization of country actions in the human health sector at the different levels of implementation in a manner that is integrated with broader health system strengthening and pandemic preparedness efforts.

The WMA has been invited to join the initiative PREZODE, which brings together governments, research institutions, academia, civil societies, health agencies, and other relevant entities from all over the world to advance research, advocacy and international collaborations to prevent, reduce and tackle the emergence of zoonotic diseases. The Executive Committee recommended joining the initiative as it aligns well with our policies on preventing emergencies.

4.3 Health emergencies

In December 2021, the World Health Assembly decided to develop a [WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response](#) (“Pandemic Treaty”) and WMA is actively engaged in the process. The instrument will have recommendations for strengthening pandemic preparedness and response according to the following categories: leadership and governance, systems and tools, financing and equity. Furthermore, it should be seen as an additional tool for WHO alongside the International Health Regulations, which aim to prevent the international spread of disease since 1969 (last revised in 2005).

The WMA has been following the sessions of the [Intergovernmental Negotiating Body \(INB\)](#), which is in charge of drafting the WHO instrument, and contributed to various public hearings during the reporting period. During the last 2 years, WMA wrote several [constituency statements](#) together with WHPA to the INB secretariat with concrete suggestions for re-wording the draft version, and contacted the missions in Geneva insisting that health workforce strengthening should be a crucial component while ensuring continuous provision of other essential health and care services.

Many of our suggestions were taken on in the draft version of the document and we received very positive feedback from several missions on our interventions on the current draft version during the WHO Executive Board meeting. At the various public hearings of the INB, we reiterated our demands on health care system strengthening and better support of the health workforce in [a public statement](#) to the INB bureau and interested missions. Furthermore, we requested alignment with existing WHO guiding documents related to the health workforce. The negotiations are ongoing and WMA participates in the frequent meetings. The active participation in this process is very time and energy consuming and the WMA Secretariat would like to thank the JDN for their constant support.

In an additional bid to better prepare the world for another possible health emergency, WHO is amending the International Health Regulations. The WMA took part in most of the meetings of the [WHO Working Group on amendments to the International Health Regulations \(2005\)](#) (WGIHR), which took place between November 2022 and now. The amendments to the International Health Regulations aim to complement the IHR and INB documents.

To bring all these activities together, the UN organised a High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Preparedness and Response prior to the General Assembly of the UN and in line with the HLM on UHC in September 2023. WMA participated with the following delegation: Dr Osahon Enabulele, WMA President, Dr Lujain AlQodmani, WMA President-Elect and Dr Julia Tainijoki-Seyer, Senior Medical Advisor.

4.4 Health workforce

WHO organised several conferences on occupational health, healthy, safe and resilient workplaces in November 2023 and WMA was represented by Dr Julia Tainijoki.

The series of conferences included the following three meetings:

- **Caring for those who care: Policy instruments for safeguarding the health, safety, and wellbeing of health workers:**
The health sector, which is supposed to restore, protect and promote health, is also among the most hazardous sectors for health and safety of workers. Poor working conditions are among the main reasons for attrition and strikes among health workers. Therefore, the protection of health and safety of health workers should be part of the core business of the health sector. Despite policy guidelines from WHO and ILO and 50 legal instruments on the protection of workers from occupational safety and health risks adopted by ILO, only 29 out of the 195 WHO have policy instruments to protect the health, safety and well-being of health workers
- **Health in the World of Work:**
This meeting reflected on the COVID-19 pandemic and other current health crises in order to plan and prioritize the network collaboration and engagement for the next biennium.
- **Global forum on healthy, safe and resilient workplaces.**

5. HEALTH POLICY & EDUCATION

5.1 Medical and health policy development and education

See under chapter II “Partnerships and collaboration”.

5.2 Support for national constituent members

See item 0 above.

CHAPTER II PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION

During the reporting period, the WMA Secretariat held bilateral meetings with the WHO and staff of other UN agencies on various areas and voiced the WMA's opinion and concerns in public settings as follows²:

6. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

154th Executive Board (January 2024)

- [Universal health coverage](#)
- [Follow-up to the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases](#)
- [Antimicrobial resistance: accelerating national and global responses](#)
- WHO's work in health emergencies (constituency statement)
- [Social Determinants of Health](#)
- [Climate change and health](#)

Other WHO virtual meetings attended during the reporting period:

- Dr Lujain AlQodmani was selected to join the Steering Committee of the WHO Civil Society Commission as a representative of the World Medical Association
 - WHO consultation with professional associations and academia on the implementation of the Global Alcohol Action Plan 2022-2030, 18-20 January 2023
- WHO World Patient Safety Day 2023 Global Conference – developing ‘Patient Safety Rights Charter’
- [Intergovernmental Negotiating Body to draft and negotiate a WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response \(INB\)](#), [WHO Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations \(2005\)](#),
- WHO World Patient Safety Day 2023 Global Conference: “Engaging patients for patient safety”
- WHO meetings on Occupational and Workplace Health including the Global Forum on healthy, safe and resilient workplaces

² More information on the activities mentioned is set out under the relevant section of the report.

7. OTHER UN AGENCIES

AGENCY	ACTIVITIES
<p>Human Rights Council (HRC) of the United Nations</p> <p>UN Special Rapporteur (SR) on the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring activities related to health Promotion of relevant HRC activities on human rights and health through the WMA's media channels. Monitoring the activities of the SR and Promotion of relevant activities through the WMA's media channels. Monitoring the activities of the SR and Promotion of relevant activities through the WMA's media channels.
UNAIDS	Regular exchange of information
OECD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular exchange of information A collaboration on Artificial Intelligence started in August 2023 between the WMA and the Health Division of the OECD
International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Health Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular exchange of information. Promotion of relevant IOM activities on migration and health through WMA's media channels. OECD High-Level Policy Forum on the Future of People-Centred Health Innovation

8. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION: WORLD GOVERNMENT SUMMIT, DUBAI, UAE, 11-14 FEBRUARY 2024

This year, the World Medical Association was invited to the World Government Summit for the first time. WMA President, Dr Lujain Alqodmani and WMA Secretary General, Dr Otmar Kloiber were invited to speak and present at the forum's health section on Urban Health and technology. The WGS aims to be a platform for exchange about innovation in government and administration.

9. WORLD HEALTH PROFESSIONS ALLIANCE (WHPA)

After 20 years of successfully supporting the professions and promoting public health at the international level, WHPA revised its 5-year strategy in the first half of 2023. This started with a survey of its members and stakeholders. The results will help to define priorities, objectives and determine which activities should be implemented.

For the activities carried out by WHPA and WMA jointly please see agenda items 4.3 Health Emergencies and 4.1 Patient Safety.

10. MEDICAL SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

With the outbreak of war in Ukraine in February 2022, the WMA Secretariat, its members and partners immediately mobilised to condemn the aggression and provide medical support to the victims.

In March 2022, the WMA together with the European Forum of Medical Associations (EFMA) and the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) set up a [Ukraine Medical Help Fund](#) to assist persons with medical needs suffering under the war. The fund is governed by a taskforce composed of the founding members of the Fund (Steering Committee), in cooperation with the Polish Chamber of Doctors and Dentists, the Slovakian Medical Association and the Slovakian Medical Chamber, the Japan Medical Association, the French Medical Association and the State Chamber of Physicians of Saxony.

The primary purpose of the fund is to collect medical supplies and other equipment to maintain health care in Ukraine in cooperation with the Ukrainian Medical Association as well as member and partner organisations in Ukraine and the neighbouring countries.

WMA members are invited to contribute to the fund. As of 22 February 2024, total donations have accumulated to 4 251 895.45 Euros (1 480 595.62 Euros were received in 2023). Using these donations, medical supplies have been purchased and delivered at 2 374 456.00 Euros. The donations were sent by:

- Japan Medical Association: 513 million Japanese Yen (3 671 599.77 Euros; 213 million Japanese Yen (1 447 502.55 Euros donated in 2023)
- CNOM (French Medical Council and its regional councils): 239 142 Euros
- Croatian Medical Chamber: 85 046.85 Euros
- Icelandic Medical Association: 62 056 Euros
- Royal Dutch Medical Association: 20 000 Euros
- Landesärztekammer Hessen: 19 915.16 Euros
- Swiss Medical Association: 18 867.03 Euros
- Taiwan Medical Association: 18 779.34 Euros
- Danish Medical Association: 16 601.85 Euros
- Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists: 1 075.00 Euros
- Other organizations like CPME, Henry Schein FRANCE, Hrvatska Health Care Employers' Association and Colegio Oficial de Medicos De La Rioja SPAIN
- And around 300 Individuals from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden and UK

A press release was issued: [Medical Bodies Send Further Help to Besieged People of Ukraine](#)

The fund is still live and further donations are welcomed. This assistance was underlined by two resolutions of the General Assembly in Berlin: The "[WMA Resolution in support of Medical Personnel and Citizens of Ukraine in the face of the Russian invasion](#)" and the "[WMA Resolution on Humanitarian and Medical Aid to Ukraine](#)".

11. WMA COOPERATING CENTRES

The WMA is proud to enjoy the support of academic cooperating centres. The WMA Cooperating Centres bring specific scientific expertise to our projects and/or policy work, improving our professional profile and outreach.

WMA Cooperating Centre	Areas of cooperation
------------------------	----------------------

Institute of Ethics and History of Medicine, University of Tübingen, Germany	Revising the Declaration of Geneva, medical ethics
Institut de droit de la santé, Université de Neuchâtel, Switzerland	International health law, developing and promoting the Declaration of Taipei, medical ethics, deontology, sports medicine
International Chair in Bioethics	<p>In recent years, the WMA has supported the “International World Conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law” organised by the International Chair in Bioethics, previously organized by Prof. Dr Amnon Carmi, now by Prof. Rui Nunes, University of Porto. The conference serves as a platform to discuss WMA’s current policies with physicians, ethicists and other scientists.</p> <p>The growing international network of academic ethics and law departments, which has been meeting for the past two decades under the title UNESCO Chair in Bioethics, has been reorganised as the International Chair in Bioethics - ICB. Following the Secretariat’s proposal, the WMA Council agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the ICB to continue cooperation with this network and to award it the status of a “WMA Cooperating Centre”.</p> <p>The https://www.bioethicsbrasil2024.com/ is scheduled for 16-19 October 2023 in Porto, Portugal, The WMA plans to present work on current policies and developments.</p>

12. WORLD FEDERATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION

In 1972 the World Medical Association, along with the WHO and six regional representations of medical faculties, founded the World Federation for Medical Education - WFME. The group was later joined by the Educational Commission for foreign Medical Graduates, the International Federation of Students Associations, and the Junior Doctors Network.

WFME has three major areas of work:

- The recognition programme evaluates agencies against internationally-accepted criteria for accreditation.
- [The World Directory of Medical Schools is maintained together with FAIMER and other organizations.](#) It contains information on over 2,900 schools, both operational

and historical. Each record highlights available school details including start year, school type, operational status, programme details and contact information.

- The *Global Standards for Quality Improvement of Medical Education*, covering basic (undergraduate) medical education (BME); postgraduate medical education (PGME); and continuing professional development (CPD) of medical doctors

The WFME recently published the revised Standards for Post-Graduate Medical Education.

The World Medical Association has been invited to join the organising committee for the next World Conference on Medical Education (a conference series that was initiated by the World Medical Association in the 1950s) to be held in Bangkok 25-28 May 2025. The WMA Chair has asked Prof. Carlos Serena to join the committee on WMA's behalf.

13. VIENNA CONGRESS 28-29 JANUARY 2024

After being awarded the Golden Arrow in 2021 the World Medical Association has been now participated for the fourth time in the annual [Vienna Congress](#), bringing together scientists, Nobel Prize laureates, politicians, entrepreneurs and medical leaders to discuss current problems and innovative solutions. WMA President, Dr Lujain AlQodmani participated in a panel discussion on scientific advancements and science scepticism from a physician perspective. WMA Secretary General, Dr Otmar Kloiber discussed the role of regions in the development of health services and the health care industry.

14. WORLD CONTINUING EDUCATION ALLIANCE (WCEA)

The World Medical Association has signed an agreement with the WCEA to provide an online education portal that will not only enable the WMA to host its online education but also offer an opportunity for member associations to develop their own portals and online content. This offer is directed specifically at medical associations and societies that wish to engage in providing online education. Interested groups, medical schools or academies are invited to contact wma@wcea.education or visit www.wcea.education for more information. The educational platform was launched in June 2018. In September 2019, the WMA also launched courses for non-members. These courses are now being updated and the new versions will be available soon at <https://www.wma.net/what-we-do/education/wcea-cme-courses/>. The member-accessible portal is available in the members' area after log-in.

15. OTHER PARTNERSHIPS OR COLLABORATIONS WITH HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

Organisation	Activity
Amnesty International	Exchange of information and support on human rights issues related to health and the protection of health personnel.
Human Rights Watch	Regular contact on issues of common interest, in particular on sexual orientation and gender identity.
Global Alliance on Alcohol Policy (GAPA)	Regular exchange of information, in particular in the context of the WHO action plan (2022-2030) to effectively implement the WHO's Global Alcohol Strategy as a public health priority.
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners on the Health Care in Danger (HCiD) project since September 2011. • Memorandum of Understanding between the ICRC and the WMA signed in November 2016.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration in the context of violence against health personnel and on WHO Global Health and Peace Initiative • Ad hoc consultations on WMA's policies of shared concern subjected to revision.
International Council of Military Medicine (ICMM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Memorandum of Understanding between the ICMM and the WMA was signed at the WMA General Assembly in October 2017 (Chicago). • Regular collaboration in the context of violence against health personnel in conflict settings.
Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS)	Development of guidance for the scientific community on medicine and health care in general. The WMA is a member and currently represented on the Executive Board and participates in various work groups on matters of research in resource poor settings, patient information and healthy research subjects. Current publications can be found on the website of CIOMS (http://chioms.ch)
International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA)	Internship programme since 2013. Regular collaboration, mostly in relation to WHO statutory meetings. Participation of WMA officers and officials in the pre-World Health Assembly IFMSA conference in Geneva.
International Federation of Associations of Pharmaceutical Physicians (IFAPP)	Cooperation on issues of human experimentation and pharmaceutical development & the role of physicians in this process. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed at the WMA General Assembly, October 2017 (Chicago), and was renewed in February 2023. Together with the WMA, IFAPP is exploring the possibility of a course on medicines' development for physicians in clinical research, ethics committees or regulation.
Global Health Justice Partnership of the Yale Law School and School of Public health (GHJP)	Joint submission as a third party in connection with the case <i>Semenya v Switzerland</i> at the European Court of Human Rights.
University of Pennsylvania International Internship Program	Annual internship programme on health policy, public health, human rights, project management. 2-3 students usually come as interns to our office for the summer. The programme has been running since 2014.
International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular exchange of information and joint actions on specific cases or situations related to the role of health personnel to prevent / document torture. • Ad hoc consultations on WMA's policies of shared concern subjected to revision.
Global Climate & Health Alliance (GCHA)	WMA and GCHA agreed on a mutual partnership in 2023. Regular exchange of information and collaboration within the context of the UN Climate Change Conference and WHO-Civil society Working group to Advance Action on Climate and Health .

World Veterinary Association	Common advocacy on matters like AMR, zoonotic diseases, food safety, vaccination and ONE HEALTH as a general strategy.
Physicians for Human Rights (PHR)	Regular exchange of information and joint actions on attacks against health personnel, in particular in support of the Turkish Medical Association during the reporting period.
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW)	Exchange of information and regular joint actions since January 2021 related to the entry into force of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
<u>Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observer status in the coalition. • Regular exchange of information.
Committee on Human Rights (CHR) of the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering & Medicine (NASEM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member of the Collaborative Forum on Attacks against Health Professionals set up by the NASEM Committee on Human Rights in early 2022. • Regular exchange of information on attacks against health personnel
Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WMA and MSF agreed on a mutual partnership in 2023 (or 2022??) • Regular exchange of information and collaboration in the context of violence against health personnel and on WHO Global Health and Peace Initiative. • MSF is also involved in the revision process of the WMA Declaration of Helsinki.
<u>World Coalition Against The Death Penalty</u>	Exchange of information, in particular regarding individual cases requiring international support.
<u>Medical Human Rights Network (IFHHRO)</u>	Exchange of information on human rights and health matters.
Sustainable Health Equity Movement (SHEM)	Joint advocacy for Health Equity

CHAPTER III COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

16. WMA NEWSLETTER

In April 2012, the WMA Secretariat started a bi-monthly e-newsletter for its members. The Secretariat appreciates any comments and suggestions for developing this service and making it as useful for members as possible. It is currently being sent to over 1,800 recipients. Since August 2021, the Newsletter has been sent out through a new mailing system compliant with GDPR regulations.

17. WMA SOCIAL MEDIA (TWITTER AND FACEBOOK)

In 2013, the WMA launched its official [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts. Since 2018, the WMA has also been communicating via [LinkedIn](#). The Secretariat encourages members to spread the word within their associations that they can follow the WMA's activities on social media. Besides communicating WMA activities and policies, the accounts have proved a powerful tool for supporting WMA Constituent Members in difficult political and social contexts.

On X (former Twitter), the number of followers has increased to 16,100. Most interactions have been obtained during the Live Tweeting sessions from events organised by the WMA and in reaction to our new policies and press releases.

The [WMA Facebook](#) profile is used for publicising our new policies, promoting our events and those of our partners, as well as the most prominent media mentions. The account has over 14,000 followers who are mostly engaging when a topic is controversial.

18. WORLD MEDICAL JOURNAL

The World Medical Journal (WMJ) is issued every 3 months and includes articles on WMA activities and feature articles by members and partners. The 60th anniversary edition was published as a final printed copy in 2014. It transferred to an electronic format in 2015, which is available on the [WMA website](#). Dr Helena Chapman, JDN Publications Director for the past few years, has successfully taken over the position of editor-in-chief of the Journal, and it is continued to be managed by Ms Maira Sudraba of the Latvian Medical Association. Dr Chapman follows Dr Peteris Apinis and Prof. Elmar Doppelfeld in the role.

19. WMA ANNUAL REPORT

The WMA started issuing Annual Reports in 2017. These reports highlight the main activities of the WMA, focusing on the report of the President and events organised around topics such as Health, Environment, NCDs, Influenza and Human Rights, but also on the categories of WMA Membership and the Financial Report. They are available on the [WMA website](#) and a very limited number of copies are distributed at the WMA Council and General Assembly.

20. PRESS OFFICER ROLE

Following the WMA Council Session held in October 2023 in Kigali, the role of Press Officer has been transferred from Mr Nigel Duncan to Ms Magda Mihaila, in addition to her role as Communications Manager at WMA.

21. SECONDMENTS/INTERNSHIPS

We have been running an internship programme with the IFMSA since 2013. During the second half of 2023, we had one intern from Turkey for 9 weeks. Our internship programme with the University of Pennsylvania, which has been running with 2-3 interns per year since 2014 and continued remotely in 2021, also continued with two in-person interns over the summer in 2022 and 2023. In 2024, 2 interns from UPENN and 2-3 interns from IFMSA are expected.

22. WMA GLOSSARY

The [WMA Glossary](#), which defines the terms in the WMA policies, was launched in October 2023 at the General Assembly. It is accessible through the members' area of WMA's website.

CHAPTER IV OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

23. STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2030

Led by Dr Jack Resneck, Jr., Chair of the Finance and Planning Committee, the WMA Executive Committee initiated a discussion on updating the strategic plan, which will expire in

2025. The first brainstorming session was held in Rome in January 2024 and some preparation work will be done before opening up the discussion among the entire membership.

CHAPTER V ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Secretariat wishes to record its appreciation of member associations and individual members for their interest in, and cooperation with, the World Medical Association and its Council during the past year. We thank all those who have represented the WMA at various meetings and gratefully acknowledge the collaboration and guidance received from the officers, as well as the Association's editors, its legal, public relations and financial advisors, staff of constituent members, council advisors, associate members, friends of the association, cooperating centres, partner organizations and officials.

We wish to mention the excellent working relationships we have with colleagues and experts in international, regional and national organizations, be they (inter-)governmental or private. We highly appreciate their willingness and efforts to enable our cooperation.



04.03.2024