



WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Activity Report to the 229th WMA Council Session (October 2024 – April 2025)

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CHAPTER I ETHICS, ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION

1. ETHICS

1.1 Revision of the Declaration of Helsinki

The 2024 revision of the Declaration of Helsinki (DOH) has been widely promoted since it was adopted at the 77th WMA General Assembly in Helsinki in October 2024. The chair of the DoH revision workgroup Dr Jack Resneck Jr. of the American Medical Association, the WMA ethics advisors Prof. Urban Wiesing and Prof. Dominique Sprumont, as well as the Secretary General, have given numerous seminars and webinars to explain the changes in the new version. The audience has reached from international associations of ethics committees to national ethics committees, the Pontifical Academy for Life, to pharmaceutical and medtech manufacturers and their associations.

1.2 Consensus Framework for Ethical Collaboration

In 2014, the WMA in partnership with the International Alliance of Patients Organizations (IAPO), 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 line with the 10th Anniversary celebrations of the Framework in October 2024 the International Consensus Framework signatory partners decided to revise the framework and add a new principle on Data and AI Ethics. The revised version is up for decision at the WMA Council meeting in Montevideo.

Moreover, WMA joins efforts to strengthen Africa's health ecosystem and try to help solve the region's health challenges; WMA and IFPMA agree to foster awareness, and to develop and implement 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.

The Secretary General was invited to present about the Consensus Framework at SMI Business Ethics Session at the 2024 APEC session in Lima, Peru. Especially, but not exclusively among APEC, several countries have used the Framework to develop their own consensus frameworks.

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) and keeps WMA members regularly informed via the WMA Newsletter.

2.2 Protecting patients and physicians

Actions of support

Country/ topic	Case
AZERBAIJAN March 2025 <u>Source:</u> Armenian Med. Ass. / Amnesty international	<p>The secretariat received a request from the Armenian medical association to act in support of Mr Ruben Vardanyan, who has been detained in Azerbaijan since September 2023. According to various sources, his conditions of detention are highly questionable with practices contrary to human rights standards and amounting to torture. The health of Mr Vardanyan is deteriorating rapidly.</p> <p>An open letter was sent to the Azerbaijani authorities asking them to ensure that Mr Vardanyan receives the necessary medical care without delay, in accordance with the principles of medical ethics, and to respect their international obligations, in particular the right to health, the right to a fair trial and the prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment. The open letter was promoted on social media.</p>
GHANA March 2025 <u>Source:</u> media	<p>In response to the anti-LGBTQ bill that has been re-introduced in the parliament of Ghana early March, several messages were posted on social media recalling the WMA Resolution on Anti-LGBTQ Legislation, adopted last October in Helsinki, and calling on Ghanaian authorities to immediately veto or rescind the Human Sexual Rights and Family Values bill. The messages also referred to the WMA statements on Natural Variations of Human Sexuality and on Transgender People, which condemn all forms of stigmatisation, criminalization of and discrimination against people based on their sexual orientation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ X: https://x.com/medwma/status/1897293648464843122 LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7303056828370726912 ▪ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/WorldMedicalAssociation/videos/1117250150082897 ▪ Bluesky: https://bsky.app/profile/medwma.bsky.social/post/3ljn76mxjrk2r
ISRAEL Oct. 2024 – now <u>Source:</u> Israeli Medical Ass. / Media	<p>The Council resolution on the protection of healthcare in Israel and Gaza (April 2024, Seoul) was adopted by the WMA General Assembly last October in Helsinki.</p> <p>The secretariat shared with the Israeli Medical Association the mails from members during the reporting period, about individual cases of attacks on physicians and hospitals in Gaza. The secretariat regularly posted on social media the WMA Resolution which demands, among other things, respect by all parties for international humanitarian law and the principle of medical neutrality to protect health facilities, health personnel and patients.</p> <p>In January, the WMA issued a press release to welcome the ceasefire that came into effect in Israel and Gaza and to call for full protection of physicians and other health professionals.</p> <p>In February, the Israeli Medical Association informed the Secretary General of a letter sent to the Director-General of the Israeli Ministry of Health denouncing the restraint of prisoners and detainees in Israeli hospitals, which is contrary to medical ethics and fundamental rights, and even constitutes real torture.</p>
IRAN	<p>Late October, the secretariat received an urgent call for action from Amnesty regarding the imminent risk of amputation of five men convicted of robbery. The</p>

<p>Oct-Nov 2024</p> <p><u>Source:</u> Amnesty International / Associate Members / Media</p>	<p>WMA had already taken a position in support of some of those detained in 2022 (World Physician Leaders Express Horror at Latest Amputation News). A letter was sent to the Iranian authorities calling for the immediate and unconditional abolition of all forms of corporal punishment and for them to respect their international obligations in terms of civil and political rights. This letter was followed by a press release.</p> <p>In November, recalling its Resolution on the abuse of psychiatry, on social media the WMA expressed concerns that political dissidents are detained in psychiatric institutions and subjected to unnecessary psychiatric treatment as a punishment, not to treat a substantiated psychiatric illness.</p>
<p>KENYA</p> <p>February 2025</p> <p><u>Source:</u> Kenya Med. Ass</p>	<p>In February, the Kenya Medical Association asked for the support of the WMA to oppose the unlawful encroachment of scope of practice of healthcare paraprofessionals into physician work, in particular clinicians (medical assistants) who claim to be sufficiently qualified to perform caesarean sections even though they have not received adequate training for this purpose.</p> <p>The Secretary General sent a letter of support to the Kenya Medical Association and the Kenya Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society (KOGS) regarding their position on the critical importance of maintaining the highest standards of surgical care in maternal health. It warned that the expansion of the scope of practice for healthcare professionals without clear, structured and evidence-based frameworks can have devastating consequences, in particular in countries where maternal mortality and morbidity remain national concerns.</p>
<p>RUSSIA</p> <p>Nov. 2024</p> <p><u>Sources:</u> Media, WMA members</p>	<p>The WMA issued a press release in November 2024 calling for the immediate release of Dr Nadezhda Buyanova, a 68-year-old paediatrician. She was condemned to five and a half years prison by a Moscow court for ‘anti-war’ remarks allegedly made during a private medical appointment. In the press release, Dr Ashok Philip warns that such a conviction seriously undermines the patient-physician relationship, which is based on trust and which should never be subject to political interference.</p>
<p>SYRIA</p> <p>March 2025</p> <p><u>Sources:</u> Media</p>	<p>In March, referring to its Resolution on the Protection of Health Care Facilities and Personnel in Syria, the WMA condemned the massacres targeting Alevi citizens in Syria and reminded that healthcare and civilians must be protected at all times.</p>
<p>TURKEY</p> <p>Oct. 2024</p> <p><u>Sources:</u> TMA / Physicians for Human Rights / Amnesty international</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>During the report period, the secretariat promoted the campaign of Amnesty International in support of Şebnem Korur Fincancı, Past President of the TMA, who was sentenced to more than 2 years, 8 months imprisonment on charges of “propaganda for a terrorist organization”. She has appealed against the sentence.</p>
<p>UGANDA</p> <p>Feb. 2025</p> <p><u>Sources:</u> Uganda Med. Ass., media</p>	<p>In February, the WMA Secretary General sent a letter to the Uganda Medical Association in support of its request for an urgent independent medical assessment and adequate treatment for Dr Kizza Besigye, who is currently in detention and whose state of health has seriously deteriorated.</p>
<p>UKRAINE</p>	<p>See below Chapter II. 6, Medical Support for Ukraine</p>

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

The WMA continues to denounce attacks against healthcare across the globe 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 4.3 below*).

2.3.1 “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](#). With the reduction in funding for the initiative, activities have decreased in recent years. However, the ICRC-led HCiD Community of Concern (CoC)¹ continues to meet regularly, enabling the exchange of up-to-date information between partners and the exploration of possible joint actions on advocacy and monitoring of violence against healthcare.

2.3.2 ICRC project on the use of emblems and other signs to protect healthcare

In October 2023, the ICRC invited the WMA to participate in a project on the use of emblems and other signs to protect healthcare, through the contributions of medical associations in selected countries (Australia, Brazil, Colombia, DRC, Egypt, El Salvador, France, Germany, India, Lithuania, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Spain, South Africa, UK, and the US) to a **qualitative study** led by researchers from Kings College London. The Secretariat liaised with the WMA constituent members concerned, most of whom responded positively and contributed to the study. The outcome of the study should be published soon.

2.3.3 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 period under review, C. Delorme followed the activities of the Forum and reported on the WMA's recent activities to combat violence against physicians, including the policies adopted by the General Assembly in Helsinki.

In December, an article addressing the pressing issue of attacks on healthcare professionals, both in the United States and globally, was published in The Lancet. Entitled ['Mobilising the health community to protect healthcare from attack'](#), the article was co-authored by Dr Lujain AlQodmani, the Immediate Past President of the WMA, and other leaders of medical and nursing organisations and researchers in the field, under the direction of the Forum. The article was promoted on social media.

¹ The HCiD convenes a global dialogue through the Community of Concerns (CoC) which bring together representatives of international health and/or humanitarian organizations concerned with the issue of violence against healthcare, such as 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.

2.3.4 Other activities related to violence against health care

The [open letter calling for the safeguarding of healthcare facilities and personnel in areas of conflict, in accordance with international law](#), published by the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA) in February 2024 continues to receive support from representatives of the health community and civil society.

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.

Dr O. Kloiber, Secretary General, and C. Delorme, policy advisor, WMA secretariat, participated in the seminar on “Medical matters in detention” organised by the [International Criminal Court](#) on 19-20 September 2024 in The Hague, Netherlands. The event gathered physicians, medical experts, legal advisors, human rights lawyers, prison directors, other medical and detention stakeholders to share experiences and exchange views on key medical issues in detention. The secretariat promoted the [report of the seminar](#) which was published in January.

2.5 Mental health and human rights

Since 2017, the WMA Secretariat, with the support of Dr Miguel Jorge, psychiatrist and WMA Past 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.

The WMA delivered a [statement](#) at the **WHO Executive Board 156th session** in February, welcoming the WHO's proposal to make mental health a priority item on the agenda of the WHO's governing bodies. It emphasised that mental health is a fundamental element of universal health coverage that requires full integration into health systems, particularly at the primary health care level.

2.6 Health through peace

2.6.1 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.

During the reporting period, the secretariat had regular contact with IPPNW to discuss strategies to place the issue of nuclear weapons' prevention on the global health agenda, in particular, to advocate for the update of WHO's 1987 report [“Effects of nuclear war on health and health services”](#).

2.6.2 WHO Global Health and Peace Initiative (GPHI)

The secretariat continues to monitor 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). Specifically, we call for more clarity and details to guarantee the impartial provision of health care and adequate working conditions for health personnel, allowing them to strictly comply with their ethical duty to protect the health and well-being of their patients.

The 77th World Health Assembly (May 2024) adopted a [resolution](#) requesting the WHO Director-General to continue to work on the GHPI in view of a possible, consensual strengthened road map for adoption by the 2029 World Health Assembly.

2.7 Sexual orientation and gender identity

2.7.1 Medical ethics and eligibility regulations of World Athletics for classifying female athletes with Differences of Sexual Development (DSD)

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 World Athletics' 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 January 2024 based on the amicus brief, which was updated in light of [new DSD regulations](#) (March 2023). The procedure is still in progress.

2.7.2 Violence against women and girls in sport

In March 2024, the WMA submitted [comments](#) in response to the [call for input](#) issued by Ms Reem Alsalem, the [Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls](#) (SR VAWG) for the report on 'violence against women and girls in sport'. WMA contests the validity of the World Athletics' eligibility rules for female classification from the point of view of human rights and medical ethics.

Following the submission of WMA comments, Clarisse Delorme presented the WMA's position at an online expert consultation convened by the Special Rapporteur in June in preparation of her [thematic report](#) which was then presented to the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2024.

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 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**. One aim of this workgroup is to provide recommendations to the WHO Director-General on how to meaningfully mobilize civil society to advocate for a highly successful **4th high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on NCDs** in September 2025. Its second aim encourages 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 to strengthen public health functions and institutions to be more responsive to NCDs, mental health and wellbeing.

The WMA delivered a [statement](#) on the follow-up to the Political Declaration of the 4th High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases at the **156th session of WHO Executive Board (February 2025)**.

The World Health Organization (WHO) Global Noncommunicable Disease Platform, in collaboration with the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research and the World Medical Association, launched a call for application for an **incentive research grant for young researchers** in the area of integrated care pathways for the prevention and control of NCDs and mental health conditions. The research should have whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to generate knowledge and support the scaling-up of proven cost-effective interventions. The application closed at the beginning of 2025 and a review is taking place at the moment.

WMA welcomes the UN Secretary General report on NCDs, which leads to the zero draft outcome document of the High-Level meeting on NCDs which highlighted the need to: *‘Strengthen a people-centred continuum of care across community, primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare levels, ensuring seamless service provision throughout the referral process through orientation towards primary healthcare, and accessibility for persons with disabilities, in line with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities’*. A strong and supported health workforce is needed for this implementation.

To strengthen this advocacy message the NCD Alliance developed a policy research report, which provides an overview of global developments, and the challenges and opportunities associated with optimising the health and care workforce to expedite efforts to address NCDs. WMA gave one of the key interviews and is a member of the NCD Alliance Expert Advisory group.

Tobacco

The WMA is involved in the implementation process of the **[WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control \(FCTC\)](#)**, 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. In February 2025, the

WHO celebrated the 20th anniversary of FCTC and WMA joined with social media activities.

Alcohol

Within the context of the collaboration plan between WHO and WMA, the WMA contributed to the development and promotion of the [WHO action plan 2022-2030](#) to effectively implement the WHO Global Strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol.

During the reporting period, the Secretariat liaised with the WHO unit responsible for implementing the action plan, and with the Global Alcohol Policy Alliance (GAPA), a key partner of the WMA in this area.

3.2 Communicable diseases

Immunisation

For many years WHO has set the flu immunization target for the society at 75%, however in many countries it stays far below this goal. Now we are facing two additional annual respiratory challenges: COVID-19 and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

The Steering Group on Influenza Vaccination, of which WMA is a member, developed the 2024 flu immunisation campaign to target a 75% uptake of the triple immunisation against flu, COVID-19 and RSV. Various materials were developed to support the awareness-raising effort and social media campaign, which started with an event on 14 October 2024.

Furthermore, the Steering committee released a statement to promote the immunization against infections as a primary prevention tool in communicable and non-communicable diseases across the life course of individuals.

WMA together with other health professional organisations, the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) and International Federation on Ageing (IFA) joined the Call to Action to advocate for life-course vaccination. The call highlights importance of comprehensive vaccination programs across the entire life course, with particular attention to safeguarding populations at risk, including health and social care professionals, who face serious and potentially life-altering consequences due to vaccine-preventable diseases.

3.3 Health and populations exposed to discrimination

Women and health

Prior to the International day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25 November, Dr Lujain AlQodmani, WMA President at the time, 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.

To mark the **International Day of Zero Tolerance of Female Genital Mutilation** on 6 February, the [WMA Statement on Female Genital Mutilation](#) was promoted on social media.

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 to protect people from financial hardship. The UN General Assembly has twice held a **High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage**, in New York in 2019 and 2023.

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 of this network and was appointed in the past to the civil society advisory group. WMA has 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.

3.5 Health and the environment

3.5.1 WMA Environment Workgroup

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

As the members of the workgroup are appointed by the Chair of Council in the same cycle as the standing committees of the WMA Council, its composition will be renewed at the Council meeting in Montevideo in April. This follows a call for expressions of interest. During the reporting period, the Environment Workgroup met to prepare the Environment Caucus meeting scheduled for April 2025 in Montevideo, to discuss the revision of WMA policies on environment under review in 2025, and WMA advocacy work on international climate change activities.

3.5.2 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, sustained health voice informing national and international decision-making on climate change and drive urgent action on climate change. The proposed strategic partnership is well in line with the agreed collaboration plans between WHO and WMA for the periods 2022-2024 and 2025-2027.

United Nations Climate Change intergovernmental negotiations:

- The WMA was represented at the [UN Climate Change Conference, COP29](#) (Baku, Azerbaijan, 11-22 November 2024) with a delegation of four in-person and three virtual delegates from the United States, Kuwait, Egypt, Austria, Mexico, Luxembourg, and India. This was led by Dr Lujain AlQodmani and Dr Ankush Bansal. Due to the reduced permitted attendance at COP 29, the WMA delegation was unable to plan for and secure speaking engagements at roundtables or side events, but collaborated

actively with physicians, nurses, pharmacists, academics, students, and scientists in the climate and health space from around the world through the Global Climate and Health Alliance (GCHA) and daily policy meetings. An article is being published soon in the World Medical Journal.

- It is planned that a small delegation attend the [intermediate UN climate change sessions \(SB 62\)](#), from 16 to 26 June 2025 in Bonn, Germany.

WHO Resolution on Climate Change and Health

The WMA took the initiative with a [WHPA constituency statement](#) on climate change and health at the WHO Executive Board 156th session (February 2025), calling for an ambitious and comprehensive implementation plan for the [World Health Assembly Resolution on climate change and health](#).

3.5.3 Air pollution

[Second WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health: Accelerating action for clean air, clean energy access and climate change mitigation](#), in collaboration with the Republic of Colombia, 25-27 March 2025, Cartagena, Colombia:

- In February, the WMA signed the [call to action from the health community](#), launched by the WHO in the run-up to its Conference on Air Pollution and Health. The call was jointly initiated with several global health organisations, including the WMA. The call was shared with WMA members and promoted on social media.
- Dr Lujain AlQodmani, WMA Immediate Past President, was invited as one of the official speakers at the Conference. She took part in a [parallel session “Heat and wildfires: at the nexus of climate change, air pollution and health”](#) co-organised by WHO and the Government of Colombia. Also representing the WHPA, Dr AlQodmani advocated for the health professions at the event. Finally, she also spoke at a high-level roundtable [“Advancing Policy Action and Health Leadership to Combat Air Pollution”](#) organised in parallel to the official conference by the [Global Climate and Health Alliance](#) in partnership with the [Clean Air Fund](#).

3.5.4 Chemical pollution

The WMA sees the reduction of environmental contamination from chemicals as a critical public health issue. The WMA supports the [Global Framework on Chemicals - for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste](#), which aims to promote chemical safety around the world and to minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health.

Dr Peter Orris, former co-chair of the WMA Environment Caucus and expert on the WMA Environment Workgroup, follows the negotiations on the **implementation of the [Minamata Mercury Convention](#)**. The secretariat provides members with relevant updates on the Minamata Convention implementation process and its impact on health.

Further to the adoption of the [WMA Resolution on Plastics and Health](#) in Helsinki, Dr Otmar Kloiber and Clarisse Delorme met with representatives of the [IFPMA](#) (International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations) in December 2024. They discussed the issue of plastic pollution and health and the progress of the plastic treaty negotiations following the [fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee \(INC-5\)](#).

3.5.5 My Green Doctor

The WMA partners 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 channels 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 which was circulated to all WMA constituent members in October 2023. Early 2024, the OECD Health Division consulted the Secretariat on the preliminary report based on the survey results. The publication of the [OECD report “Artificial Intelligence and the Health Workforce: Perspectives from medical associations on AI in health”](#) was officially launched at an OECD webinar on 22 November 2024, with the participation of representatives of medical associations who are WMA members.

Between January and May 2025, Dr Jesse Ehrenfeld (American Medical Association) and Dr Jacob Mathew (Kuwait Medical Association) from the WMA Workgroup on Medical Technology are offering WMA members a series of **five educational webinars on Artificial Intelligence in Medicine** covering various aspects of the use of AI and the opportunities and challenges it presents for physicians. During the reporting period, the first three webinars took place on the following topics: Introduction to AI in Medicine (30 January); Ethics, Legal, and Regulatory Aspects (27 February) and Current and Future Applications of AI in Medicine (27 March). The three webinars were live-streamed and attracted a large number of participants. The webinar recordings, available on the [WMA YouTube channel](#), were promoted on social media.

4. HEALTH SYSTEMS

4.1 World Patient Safety Day

WMA is again member of the World Patient Safety Day (WPSD) Steering Committee and at its first meeting its decided that the WPSD 2025 will have the theme “safety of newborns and children” WMA is working closely with WHO and the steering committee to develop a campaign and communication activities around that day.

The VII Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety entitled “*Weaving Strengths for the Future of Patient Safety Throughout the Healthcare Continuum*” took place in Manila, the Philippines at the beginning of April 2025. WMA was member of the Conference Steering Committee to help to shape the agenda and list of invited speakers. WMA president Dr Ashok Philip spoke in a panel session on Creating Psychologically Safe and Healthy Workplaces. This discussion explored the principles and practices that contribute to creating psychologically safe and healthy workplaces, where employees feel valued, respected, and empowered to share their ideas without fear of judgment. The discussion

also addressed the global health workforce shortage, the increased workplace pressure on the individual health personnel and the impact on decreased quality of care.

During August and September 2024, WMA members had the opportunity to participate in a survey by OECD to express their experiences with the increasing financialization of ambulatory care. In many economies commercial enterprises are buying outpatient care settings as investments. This brings the danger of undue (fiscal) interests interfering with the interests of patients and their medical care. Upon discussion with WMA, OECD offered to open their questionnaire, originally addressed to the member governments, to the WMA membership. The results are expected to be out soon.

4.2 Antimicrobial resistance & One Health

During World Antimicrobial Awareness Week in November 2024, WMA together with the members of WHPA organised a webinar on the outcomes of the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) High-Level Meeting in September in 2024 and how it contributes to ongoing efforts to tackle AMR. The panel concluded that the approach on AMR in low-, middle- and high-income countries varies and specific public health messaging needs to be developed to promote antimicrobial stewardship among both professionals and the general public. Further they gave examples of interprofessional collaboration on AMR.

WMA together with WHO is developing an AMR Toolkit for physicians and constituent members, gathering existing tools and guidelines on the main concepts of AMR handling: awareness, education, stewardship, behaviour change, advocacy, regulation and surveillance.

WMA joined the **AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform**, which 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 (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), WHO, and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)).

In September 2024, the UN General Assembly President convened a High-Level Meeting on AMR (HLM AMR). In the months prior to this meeting, the WMA was engaged in negotiations on the High-Level Meeting on AMR outcome document, emphasising the necessity of health care system strengthening and the important role of health professionals in the fight against AMR. This year's partnership forum meeting focused on fostering sustainable partnerships and financing to accelerate national and global responses to AMR.

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 to address AMR – prevention of infections, access to essential health services, timely and accurate diagnosis, and appropriate, 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 PREZODE initiative, which brings together governments, research institutions, academia, civil society, health agencies, and other relevant entities from around the world. It aims to advance research, advocacy and

international collaboration to prevent, reduce and tackle the emergence of zoonotic diseases. The Executive Committee recommended joining the initiative as it aligns well with WMA policies on emergency prevention.

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, and 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 charged with drafting the WHO instrument, and has contributed to various public hearings during the reporting period. In recent years, WMA wrote several [constituency statements](#) to the INB secretariat, together with WHPA. These statements had concrete suggestions for re-wording the draft version. In addition, we contacted the diplomatic 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 and our Associate Members Dr Yassen Tcholakov and Dr Wenzhen Zuo 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.

4.4 Health workforce

WMA is a member of the Expert Advisory Group (EAG) to the Third Review of the WHO Global Code of Practice on the **International Recruitment of Health Personnel**. The interims recommendation of the Advisor Boards is to add additional elements to the WHO Global Code of Practice from 2010:

- The provisions of the Code also apply to health personnel who migrate and take up employment positions as care workers in destination countries. Now only migrants who work as health personnel are counted.
- Member States with a high reliance on international health personnel, irrespective of the pathway of mobility or type of recruitment, could consider modalities of

support focused on mutually beneficial approaches, such as targeted co-investments in partnership with source countries in specific areas of the health workforce and health systems in the source countries.

- Development banks, donor agencies and financial and development institutions and countries with responsibility for emergency financing, should develop emergency financing modalities to mitigate the risk of excessive health workforce depletion during crises arising from a variety of causes.

Further these agencies are encouraged to co-invest in priority areas of health systems identified by countries as requiring support, with investments across the entire health worker life cycle (education, employment, and retention) to optimize the management and performance of the health workforce and improve population health. The next step is that WHO facilitate regional consultations with Member States to review the interim report of the Expert Advisory Group.

At the World Health Assembly 2025, in May, six resolutions dealing with the health workforce will be discussed. This prioritisation together with the 5th round of reporting on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel, encouraged WMA to gather data on migration specifically of physicians from our membership base. We would like to thank all members who participated in the survey, and we aim to have the **WMA report on migration of physicians** ready for the WHA 2025 in May this year.

“The **health workforce shortage** and the potential ways out of the current healthcare crisis” was the theme of the annual MMS Symposium in October 2024. Dr Julia Tainijoki spoke about how to enhance health systems to fully utilize the capabilities of health professionals and thereby improving the quality of healthcare.

5. HEALTH POLICY & EDUCATION

5.1 Medical and health policy development and education

See under chapter III “Partnerships and collaboration.”

5.2 Support for national constituent members

In September 2024, the Albanian Order of Physicians informed us about a law proposal which had been introduced shortly before. The proposal would alter disciplinary mechanisms in a way that would finally put the independence of the Order in question.

Other than the law requires the proposal, it had neither been announced to the Order, nor had the Order been heard. On request of the Order the WMA wrote to the health committee of the Albanian Parliament to see discussion with the Order, so that their concerns could be heard. WMA offered further support to the Albanian Colleagues.

See Chapter I, item [2.2](#) “Protecting patients and physicians.”

CHAPTER II PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION

1. REGIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS AND STANDING CONFERENCES

The WMA entertains a regular and close relation to the regional groups of medical associations, the African Coalition of Medical Associations, the Confederation of Medical Associations of Asia and Oceania (CMAAO), the Confederación Médica Latinoamericana y del Caribe (CONFEMEL), Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), the European Forum of Medical Associations (EFMA), the Medical Associations of the member states of the Association of South East Asian Nations (MASEAN) and the Southeast European Medical Forum.

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:

2. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

156th Executive Board (February 2025)

- [Universal Health Coverage](#) (constituency statement)
- [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](#)
- [Mental health and social connection](#)
- [Health and care workforce](#) (constituency statement)
- [Universal health and preparedness review](#)
- [Climate change and health](#) (constituency statement)

Other WHO 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 World Patient Safety Day 2024 Global Conference: "Improving diagnostic safety and implementing the Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021-2030"
- [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 2025 Global Conference: "safety for newborn and child health"
- Launch of the WHO handbook on integrated care for older people (ICOPE): guidance for person-centred assessment and pathways in primary care
- Dr Julia Tainijoki gave a presentation on patient's rights at the Geneva Conference on Person Centered Medicine
- Dr Lujain AlQodmani represented the WMA and the WHPA at the [Second WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health: Accelerating action for clean air, clean energy access and climate change mitigation](#), 25-27 March 2025, Cartagena, Colombia
- Dr Yassen Tcholakov, WMA Advisor, represented WMA at the 13th meeting of the [Intergovernmental Negotiating Body \(INB\) for a WHO instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response](#) in February 2025. [WMA Statement](#) delivered.
- WMA Junior Doctors Network Immediate Past President Marie-Claire Wangari and Dr Yassen Tcholakov, participated in the [WHO Youth Council](#) in September 2024. Pablo Estrella Porter is the WMA JDN representative for 2024-2026.
- The Chair of the WMA MEC and the Secretary General participated 2024 and 2025 in a WHO working group on Clinical Ethics. The work focusses on the need for ethics support in clinical settings. A report is foreshadowed for the middle of 2025.

3. OTHER UN AGENCIES

AGENCY	ACTIVITIES
Human Rights Council (HRC) of the United Nations UN Special Rapporteurs (SR) on the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health / on violence against women and girls / on torture	<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
UNAIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular exchange of information
OECD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular exchange of information - The collaboration on Artificial Intelligence started in August 2023 between the WMA and the Health Division of the OECD resulted in the publication of the OECD report "Artificial Intelligence and the Health Workforce: Perspectives from medical associations on AI in health" in November 2024 - Collaboration on surveying WMA members and partner organization on the financialization of ambulatory care
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

4. WORLD HEALTH PROFESSIONS ALLIANCE (WHPA)

WHPA revised its statement on Interprofessional Collaborative Practice, first adopted in 2013. The revision highlights the importance of continuity of care. It addresses chronically ill patients better and pays more attention to marginalised populations. An important element is improved working conditions and a new paragraph deals with health data, technologies, and AI.

During World Antimicrobial Awareness Week in November 2024, WHPA organised a webinar on the outcomes of the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) High-Level Meeting in September in 2024. For more information please see 4.2

5. 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 activities are overseen by WMA Past-President Prof. Dr Leonid Eidelman.

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 were invited to contribute to the fund. As of 12 March 2025, t1 535 496.13 Euros remained in the fund after using these donations, for purchasing and delivering medical equipment, supplies, medicine, field evacuation vehicles, blood bank equipment, warming tents and transportation at 2 765 183.09 Euros.

We are grateful for the help we have received from many volunteers, especially at the State Chamber of Physicians of Hesse, the University Hospital Frankfurt, and the private society “Hope for Ukraine.”

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](#)”.

6. 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 Helsinki, medical ethics
Institut de droit de la santé, Université de Neuchâtel, Switzerland	International health law, developing and promoting the Declaration of Taipei, revising the Declaration of Helsinki, medical ethics, deontology, sports medicine
International Chair in Bioethics	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>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 17th World Conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law is scheduled for the 24-26 November 2025 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.</p>
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7. 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 and is currently exploring to develop a system for the recognition of accreditation for PGME analogue to its system in Basic Medical Education. The chair has asked Dr Hans-Albert Gehle (German Medical Association) to represent the WMA in this exploration.

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 (Brazilian Medical Association) to join the committee on WMA's behalf.

During August 2024, the members of the World Medical Association had an opportunity to comment on the draft Standards for Continuing Professional Development. This work has been accompanied by WMA President Elect Dr Ashok Philip. The final version of the Standard has been published on the Website of WFME.

8. VIENNA CONGRESS 27 JANUARY 2025

After being awarded the Golden Arrow in 2021, the World Medical Association has now participated for the fifth time in the annual [Vienna Congress](#), bringing together scientists, Nobel Prize laureates, politicians, entrepreneurs, and medical leaders to discuss current problems and innovative solutions. Dr Ashok Philip, WMA President, spoke at the 22nd Vienna Congress in January 2025 which had the theme, “Europe of Tomorrow: Setting Directions”. He addressed the importance of adapting to change while upholding core values. Dr Otmar Kloiber, WMA Secretary General, was part of the panel discussion “AI: Pandora’s Box or Universal Problem-Solver?”

9. 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@wece.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 have been updated and the new versions are available 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.

10. 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.
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
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)
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.
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 .

<u>Global Health Justice Partnership</u> 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 (pending)
<u>Human Rights Watch</u>	Regular contact on issues of common interest, in particular, on sexual orientation and gender identity
<u>International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)</u>	<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 - 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 information exchange in the context of violence against health personnel in conflict settings
International Federation of Associations of Pharmaceutical Physicians (IFAPP)	<p>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.</p> <p>Together with the WMA, IFAPP is exploring the possibility of a course on medicines' development for physicians in clinical research, ethics committees or regulation.</p>
<u>International Federation of Medical Students Associations (IFMSA)</u>	<p>Internship programme since 2013.</p> <p>Regular collaboration, mostly in relation to WHO statutory meetings.</p> <p>Participation of WMA officers and officials in the pre-World Health Assembly IFMSA conference in Geneva.</p>
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information exchange and regular joint actions since January 2021 related to the entry into force of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. - During the reporting period, collaborate to advocate for the update of WHO's 1987 report "Effects of nuclear war on health and health services"
<u>International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)</u>	<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
Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WMA and MSF agreed on a mutual partnership in 2023

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular exchange of information and collaboration in the context of violence against health personnel and on WHO Global Health and Peace Initiative. - MSF was involved in the revision process of the WMA Declaration of Helsinki
Physicians for Human Rights (PHR)	Regular exchange of information and joint actions on attacks against health personnel and respect of the human right to health.
Pontefical Academy for Life	Cooperation on current issues of medical ethics or socio-medical affairs i.e. the Declaration of Helsinki, by webinars mutual invitation or joint events
<u>Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Observer status in the coalition - Regular exchange of information
<u>Sustainable Health Equity Movement (SHEM)</u>	Joint advocacy for Health Equity
<u>University of Pennsylvania International Internship Program</u>	Annual internship programme on health policy, public health, human rights, and project management. 2-3 students usually come as interns to our office for the summer. The programme has been running since 2014.
<u>World Psychiatric Association (WPA)</u>	Regular contacts and exchange of information
<u>World Veterinary Association (WVA)</u>	Common advocacy on matters like AMR, zoonotic diseases, food safety, vaccination, and One Health as a general strategy.

CHAPTER III COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

1. PRESS RELEASES

During this reporting period, 15 press releases have been issued to members for their advocacy activities and to the media, as follows:

- [Statement of Support for Spanish Junior Doctors](#)
- [Physician Leaders Urge U.S. to Sustain Global Health Support Amid Foreign Aid Review](#)
- [The World Medical Association Calls for Sustained Global Support of the World Health Organization](#)
- [WMA commends Israel and Gaza ceasefire and calls for safeguarding of health professionals](#)
- [The World Medical Association remains deeply concerned about the International Federation of Medical Students Association's suspension of its Israeli member organization](#)
- [Quality care by health professionals is a cost-effective path to UHC: World Health Professions Alliance](#)
- [WMA calls for ban on medical, nursing and midwifery training for women in Afghanistan to be lifted](#)

- [The World Medical Association urges global commitment for a just Plastic Treaty to safeguard human and planetary health](#)
- [WMA joins call for Dr Nadezhda Buyanova's immediate release and for all charges against her to be dropped](#)
- [Global physician leader calls for stronger financial and political commitments to put health at the center of COP29 negotiations](#)
- [WMA calls on Member States to adopt binding commitments on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response](#)
- [The World Medical Association calls on Iranian authorities to cease corporal punishment and comply with their international obligations on civil and political rights](#)
- [The World Medical Association General Assembly 2024 in summary](#)
- [Revised Declaration of Helsinki adopted by the global medical community, strengthening ethical standards in clinical research involving humans](#)
- [Physicians urged to actively participate in healthcare policy and health systems change to safeguard professional autonomy: New Global Physician leader](#)

2. WMA NEWSLETTER

The WMA Secretariat issues 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. The Newsletter is sent to over 3,000 recipients, through a mailing system that complies with GDPR regulations.

3. WMA SOCIAL MEDIA (TWITTER, LINKEDIN, FACEBOOK, YOUTUBE AND BLUESKY)

The World Medical Association is active on five social media channels ([X](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Bluesky](#) and [YouTube](#)). We encourage members to spread the word within their associations to follow WMA activities on social media, and WMA interacts with members posts. Besides communicating WMA activities, events and policies, the accounts have proved a powerful advocacy tool for supporting WMA Constituent Members in difficult political and social contexts.

[X](#) (formerly Twitter): the number of followers has grown to more than 16,560. There have been increased interactions for WMA advocacy, short videos, and for new WMA policies and press releases. Concerns exist over the neutrality of the platform.

[LinkedIn](#): WMA has more than 12,400 followers, a major increase over the last 12 months. Posts with most interactions include photos and videos from WMA-related events, short videos, press releases and WMA advocacy actions.

[Facebook](#): The account has more than 15,000 followers, with regular engagement by a small group. The same WMA content is posted here as on the other social media channels.

[Bluesky](#): The WMA opened an account on Bluesky, an alternative social media platform to X, at the end of November 2024. The same content is posted here as across the other WMA social media channels, and we are steadily building a base of followers with medical/public health/medical ethics backgrounds.

4. WORLD MEDICAL JOURNAL

The World Medical Journal (WMJ) is issued every three months and includes articles on WMA activities and feature articles by members and partners. 2024 marked the 70th anniversary issue. The WMJ is available on the [WMA website](#) in an electronic format. Dr Helena Chapma, holds the position of editor-in-chief of the Journal, and it is managed by Ms Maira Sudraba of the Latvian Medical Association.

5. 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 limited number of copies are distributed at the WMA Council and General Assembly.

6. COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA ROLE

Ms Magda Mihaila, Communications and Media Manager, on parental leave from April 2024 to January 2025, has returned and she is now working at 60%. Ms Janice Blondeau is handling the remaining 40% Communications and Media Manager role until the end of September 2025. They share Communications and Press Officer responsibilities.

7. SECONDMENTS/INTERNSHIPS

We have been running an internship programme with the IFMSA since 2013. Our internship programme with the University of Pennsylvania (UPENN), has been running with two or three interns per year since 2014, remotely in 2021, and in-person internships again since 2022. During Winter 2025 WMA is hosting a fifth-year medical student from Germany for a five-week internship.

8. JDN NEWSLETTER

The WMA Junior Doctors Network prepares and issues its own newsletter to inform about the work of the JDN and on global, regional or national topics pertaining to the work of young physicians. The [JDN Newsletter](#) is available on the WMA website in the JDN Section. The current JDN publications director is Dr Venkatesh Karthikeyan (India).

9. 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

1. 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 the second

broader session during the General Assembly in Helsinki. Updates from those two sessions have been sent to the members and the external stakeholders for their feedback, which will be considered by the Council in Montevideo.

CHAPTER V ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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 organisations 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.



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