



WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

**Activity Report to the
232nd WMA Council Session
(November 2025 – March 2026)
Belgrade, Serbia**

**ACTIVITY REPORT
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CHAPTER I ETHICS, ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION

1. ETHICS

1.1 Revision of the Declaration of Taipei

The World Medical Association (WMA) is undertaking a comprehensive revision of its Declaration of Taipei, a foundational ethical framework guiding the use of health databases and biobanks beyond traditional research. First adopted in 2002 and last updated in 2016, the Declaration underscores the critical importance of confidentiality, trust, and the protection of sensitive health information. It recognizes that risks to these principles often stem from commercial, administrative, or political misuse, rather than from scientific inquiry itself. As custodians of health data, physicians bear a unique responsibility to uphold these ethical standards. The revision process, launched in April 2025 with the establishment of a dedicated workgroup, seeks to ensure the Declaration remains robust and relevant in the face of rapidly evolving global challenges.

The landscape of health data and biospecimen use has been profoundly reshaped by advances in digital health, artificial intelligence, multi-omics, and big data analytics. These innovations are breaking down traditional distinctions between clinical care, research, and public health, while also extending into commercial applications. Such developments raise urgent ethical questions regarding consent, transparency, privacy, accountability, and equity. The growing capacity for data linkage and international sharing further intensifies these concerns, and the commercialization of data-driven products introduces new dilemmas around benefit sharing and alignment with the public interest. In this context, the current scope of the Declaration faces unprecedented challenges, making its revision both timely and essential.

To ensure broad and inclusive input, the WMA is convening a series of regional expert meetings. The first open expert meeting was held in Taipei, Taiwan in December 2025. The second took place in São Paulo, Brazil, in March 2026, followed by meetings in Vatican City, Italy (30 May–2 June 2026), and Oslo, Norway (14–16 September 2026). The WMA extends its gratitude to all constituent members for their invaluable support in organising these regional consultations.

1.2 Declaration of Helsinki

In response to the European Union's efforts to enhance its competitiveness in life sciences and biotechnology—including proposals such as the Biotech Act—the WMA and the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) co-hosted a **policy briefing to address the critical need for maintaining robust ethical safeguards in clinical trials**. While the EU seeks to streamline multi-country trials and improve health data sharing, these developments raise concerns about potential deregulation, patient safety, data privacy, and equitable access to medicinal products. The WMA's **Declaration of Helsinki**, the global standard for ethical clinical research, emphasizes that the rights, interests, and well-being of participants must always take precedence over scientific and societal interests. The briefing underscored that ethical rigor is not only compatible with innovation but essential for scientific credibility, public trust, and sustainable progress in medical research.

2. HUMAN RIGHTS

2.1 Right to health

The WMA Secretariat monitors the work of the United Nations Human Rights Council and its independent experts, including Dr [Tlaleng Mofokeng](#) (South Africa), the UN Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and keeps WMA members regularly informed via the WMA Newsletter.

2.2 Protecting patients and physicians

Actions of support

Country/ topic	Case
<p>HUNGARY</p> <p>August 2025 - January 2026</p> <p><u>Source:</u> Hungarian Medical Chamber</p>	<p>The President of the Hungarian Medical Chamber contacted the Secretariat in August, asking for WMA support in response to the increasing pressure on the Hungarian Medical Chamber, whose rights are being systematically restricted, including through the transfer of ethical oversight from the Chamber to a government-controlled body and the discriminatory removal of obligatory membership. A letter was sent to the Prime Minister of Hungary (cc: Permanent representation of Hungary to the European Union) calling for an immediate end to this unfounded campaign and expressing solidarity with its Hungarian member. A press release was issued and published on WMA social media channels.</p> <p>At the end of October, we received a response from the Hungarian Minister of the Interior, inviting the WMA to visit Hungary. A similar invitation was sent to the CPME and the German Medical Association. A ministerial meeting was held on 23 January in Budapest, under the auspices of the Hungarian Minister of the Interior, with the participation of the WMA, the CPME and the GMA. The Minister offered to allow the re-establishment of an ethics committee by the Hungarian Chamber. The WMA stated that this should come with the reintroduction of the obligatory membership.</p>
<p>ISRAEL</p> <p>October 2025– February 2026</p> <p><u>Source:</u> Israeli Medical Ass. / Media</p>	<p>During the reporting period, the Secretariat regularly posted on social media the WMA Resolution on the protection of health care in Israel and Gaza and the WMA Resolution Calling on the Israeli Government to Comply with the Geneva Conventions and Other Applicable Instruments of Humanitarian Law (adopted last October in Porto), demanding respect by all parties for international humanitarian law and the principle of medical neutrality to protect health facilities, health personnel and patients. The Secretariat also shared with the Israeli Medical Association the emails from members about individual cases of attacks on physicians and hospitals in the region, mainly in Gaza.</p> <p>In November, the WMA wrote to the Israeli authorities urging them to guarantee due process and fair-trial rights for Dr Hussam Abu Safiyya, Director of Kamal Adwan Hospital in Gaza, who has reportedly been held since 27 December 2024 without charge, as well as for other detained health professionals. A press release was issued: WMA calls on Israel to ensure fair trial standards for detained Gaza physician, 07.11.2025</p>

	Another letter was sent to the Israeli authorities in January demanding a rapid and unimpeded entry and distribution of emergency aid in Gaza. This was followed by a press release: World Medical Association Appeals for Rapid and Unobstructed Delivery of Emergency Aid in Gaza , 15.01.2026
IRAQ January 2026 <u>Source:</u> Individual physicians / Associate members	In January, the Secretariat received several emails from young physicians in Iraq reporting that more than a year and a half after graduating, they have still not been officially appointed to public health institutions, despite the acute shortage of physicians in hospitals and the increasing pressure on the health care system in the country. The Secretariat wrote to the Iraqi Medical Association urging them to exert pressure on the authorities and take all necessary and effective measures to ensure the appointment of young graduate physicians. The Junior Doctors Network was also informed of the situation.
IRAN January-February 2026 <u>Source:</u> Amnesty International / Associate Members / Media	In January, the Secretariat received numerous consistent reports indicating a sharp increase in violence against health care personnel in Iran in recent weeks. The WMA issued a press release strongly condemning the assault on Imam Khomeini Hospital in Ilam, and the interference with health care delivery reported across the country. Later that month, the WMA sent a letter to the Iranian authorities urging it to end violence against health personnel. In the letter, the WMA denounces the use of violence by security forces, the misuse of medical facilities to support the repression of protests, and the persecution of health care professionals. A press release was issued. Several messages were also posted on social media in relation to the critical situation of violence in the country.
SUDAN October 2025 <u>Sources:</u> Media, WMA members	In late October, the WMA issued a press statement expressing its deepest outrage following reports of the massacre of more than 460 patients and their companions at the Saudi Maternity Hospital in El Fasher, North Darfur, Sudan. The WMA expressed its full solidarity with Sudanese physicians, nurses, and other health professionals, urging the international community to intensify humanitarian support for those displaced by the violence in the region.
SYRIA January 2026 <u>Sources:</u> Media	Following reports of attacks on civilians and health care personnel and facilities in the Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafiyah neighbourhoods of Aleppo, a letter was sent to the Syrian authorities in January drawing attention to the fact that hospitals, clinics, ambulances, and medical personnel have been deliberately targeted or obstructed from fulfilling their duties. The WMA stressed that attacks against civilians, health personnel, and medical facilities constitute grave violations of international humanitarian law. A press release was issued.
UKRAINE	See below chapter II section 5 Medical Support for Ukraine

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

The WMA continues to denounce attacks against health care across the globe and to advocate for sustainable prevention strategies globally, including in the context of 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 health care.

2.3.2 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 Porto. The Forum works on a mapping exercise to identify current obstacles and opportunities for action in response to the escalation of attacks against health professionals, both at national and international levels.

2.3.3 Other activities related to violence against health care

In July, the Secretariat was invited by [RIAH](#) (Researching the Impact of Attacks on Health care) to contribute to a **mapping of stakeholders working on the protection of health care**, their current interests and capacities in that area, with a view to developing an action plan to bring together and mobilise relevant actors over the coming years. C. Delorme met with them in August for an interview. A public report on this mapping exercise is expected to be published later in March or April.

Concerned by the alarming reports from multiple countries documenting attacks on health personnel, violations of medical neutrality, and the misuse of health care facilities, whether in situations of armed conflict or during civil protests, the **World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA)** published a [press statement](#) in February calling for protection of health personnel from violence and persecution.

Clarisse Delorme, senior policy advisor, will participate in an expert workshop entitled **“Strengthening Data Systems and Evidence for Protecting Health care and the Right to Health in Conflict,”** to take place in late March in Geneva. This workshop is jointly organised by the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), the Researching the Impact of Attacks on Health care (RIAH) Consortium, the Office of the UN High

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 health care, 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.

Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 2286 on the protection of health care in armed conflict.

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.

Clarisse Delorme attended the **Expert Group meeting on the use of technology in prisons** organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on 10-12 November in Vienna. The purpose of the meeting was to contribute to the development of a handbook on the use of new technologies in prison settings, to be published under UNODC's Criminal Justice Handbook Series. Following the meeting, a written contribution was sent to the rapporteurs responsible for drafting the handbook, emphasising the ethical dimension of digital health in detention and referring to the WMA's fundamental ethical policies, in particular the [WMA Statement on Digital Health](#).

In February, the Secretariat responded to the [call for input](#) issued by the UN Special Rapporteur on summary, extrajudicial or arbitrary executions on the issue of "the death penalty from the perspective of the prohibition against torture and other forms of ill-treatment and the protection of human dignity", with a view to contributing to the Special Rapporteur's report to be presented to the 62nd session of the Human Rights Council. The [WMA contribution](#) focused on **detention on death row** from both a medical and ethical perspective, based on the [WMA statement on solitary confinement](#).

2.5 Mental health and human rights

Since 2017, the WMA Secretariat 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 158th session](#) in February, urging sustained financing and investment in the mental health workforce, as well as the provision of safe working conditions and meaningful engagement of people with lived experience, including in emergency preparedness and response.

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 for placing the issue of nuclear weapons' prevention on the global health agenda. To this end, the revision of the [WMA Statement on Nuclear Weapons](#) adopted by the General Assembly in Porto last October, now includes a provision urging "*the World Health Assembly to empower the World Health Organization to review and renew its 1987 report "Effects of Nuclear War on Health and Health Services," and its 1993 report "Health and Environmental Effects of Nuclear Weapons" and to publicize its findings widely.*"

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), we called for more clarity and details to guarantee the impartial provision of health care and adequate working conditions for health personnel, in line with the ethical principles of health care.

The 77th World Health Assembly (May 2024) adopted a [resolution](#) requesting the WHO Director-General to continue to work on the GPHI in view of a possible, consensual strengthened road map for adoption by the 2029 World Health Assembly. At its 158th session last February, the WHO Executive Board reviewed the Director-General's progress report and took note of ongoing work.

2.7 Sexual orientation and gender identity

In February, the WMA received an invitation to join the Steering Committee of the study of Conversion Practices against LGBTIQ persons commissioned by the European Commission with the aim of identifying, analysing and assessing the nature, scope, prevalence and impacts of conversion practices targeting LGBTIQ persons across the European Union. Given the regional scope of the project, the Secretariat forwarded the invitation to the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) in order to identify a suitable expert with the required medical knowledge.

3. PUBLIC HEALTH

3.1 Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

General

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

The 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."

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 applications for an **incentive research grant for young researchers** in 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 Young Researchers Programme has entered the implementation phase. The Call for Proposals, launched on 5 November 2024 and closed on 31 January 2025, received 489 submissions across six WHO regions. Following eligibility screening, 60 proposals progressed to technical review, and 12 young researchers were selected based on scientific merit, feasibility, and potential policy impact. The selected projects are being implemented in Tanzania (2), Nepal (2), Pakistan (2), Niger, Senegal, Cameroon, Sri Lanka, Moldova, and Indonesia. Studies are expected to conclude by end of August 2026, producing both research reports and policy briefs.

Tobacco

The WMA is involved in the implementation process of the [WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control \(FCTC\)](#), and participated in the COP meeting in Geneva in 2025 through Dr Julia Tainijoki, Senior Medical Advisor. Key decisions were reached on tobacco control and the environment; increasing sustainable resources for tobacco control; forward-looking tobacco control measures; and issues relating to the liability of the tobacco industry for the damage it causes.

Alcohol

Within the context of the collaboration plan between the WHO and the 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. 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. Although no specific activities on the issue of alcohol were carried out during the reporting period, the Secretariat continues its awareness-raising efforts to address noncommunicable diseases in a holistic manner.

3.2 Communicable diseases

Immunisation

For many years, the WHO has set a target of 75% flu immunization coverage, yet in many countries vaccination rates remain well below this goal - even among health professionals. The WMA has long advocated for the public health benefits of immunisation, stressing the importance of health care professional vaccination, both as role models and to protect their patients from infection.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, two additional annual respiratory challenges have emerged: COVID-19 and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

In response to this evolving public health landscape, the Steering Group on Influenza Vaccination—of which the WMA has been a member for several years, broadened its

mandate and changed its name to the **Steering Group on the Prevention of Respiratory Infections**. At its annual advocacy event in Brussels in October 2025, the Steering Committee released a memorandum outlining this shift.

The 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 the 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 Social determinants of health (SDH) and universal health coverage (UHC)

UHC2030 is the global movement dedicated to strengthening health systems in pursuit of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Its diverse membership includes countries, multilateral organizations, global initiatives, philanthropic foundations, and non-governmental organizations. The WMA is an active participant in this network and has previously served on the Civil Society Advisory Group. In recognition of its ongoing commitment, the WMA has been selected to join the UHC2030 Task Force. The movement fosters collaboration through high-level events and gatherings, while also providing advocacy, tools, guidance, and knowledge-sharing to advance the UHC agenda.

Following the decision of the UN General Assembly at the 2023 High-Level Meeting (HLM), the next UN HLM on UHC is scheduled for September 2027 in New York. A multistakeholder hearing is anticipated for spring 2027. As in 2019 and 2023, UHC2030 is expected to play a pivotal role in mobilising and supporting stakeholders, and in contributing to the process of securing meaningful commitments and actions to accelerate progress toward UHC.

Advocacy efforts for the 2027 HLM are already underway, with the WMA actively engaged through the UHC2030 Task Force. The Task Force's primary responsibility will be to oversee the development of an Action Agenda 2.0 for the UHC Movement, drawing on the latest data, the evolving global health context, and inputs gathered through inclusive consultations. The Task Force aims to present a concise set of action-oriented policy recommendations to the President of the General Assembly in advance of the 2027 UHC Political Declaration negotiations. It will also provide strategic political advocacy and communications support to UHC2030 throughout the preparatory process for the 2027 UN HLM on UHC. The Task Force will comprise up to twenty-five representatives from UHC2030 constituencies and beyond.

In a related development, the WHO Executive Board has requested the Director-General to convene global actors in designing a proposal for “a joint, inclusive, transparent, time-bound, resource-effective, and efficient process, hosted by WHO and led by Member States.” This process aims to bring together and complement the **global health architecture and UN80 discussions**, facilitating convergence and consensus-building to support the transformation of the current global health architecture. WMA is involved in this process.

3.4 Health and the environment

3.4.1 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 on environment and health, in accordance with the terms of reference defined by the Council Chair. The members of the Workgroup are appointed according to the same cycle as WMA Council standing committees. The 229th Council (Montevideo) decided to renew the mandate of the workgroup for a second term (2025-2027). Laura Jung (JDN) succeeded Ankush Bansal (associate member) as chair of the workgroup for this new term. Other members of the WG include representatives from the British, Kuwait and Nigerian medical associations, and Associate Members. After the General Assembly in Porto, the workgroup welcomed two new members: the Canadian Medical Association and the Trinidad & Tobago Medical Association.

During the reporting period, the environment workgroup met several times to consider the proposed revisions to the WMA's policies on fossil fuels and on climate change, following comments received from members. Revised versions of the two policies will be submitted to the Council in Belgrade. The workgroup also prepared the meeting of the next Environment Caucus, held in conjunction with each WMA Council meeting and discussed WMA advocacy activities on international climate change initiatives.

3.4.2 Climate change and air pollution

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 plan between WHO and WMA for the period 2025-2027.

United Nations Climate Change intergovernmental negotiations:

The WMA was represented at the UN Climate Change Conference, **COP30 (Belém, 10-21 November 2025)**. A report of the activities of the WMA delegation is included in the annual report and an article will be published in the next World Medical Journal. The following press statements were issued:

- [World Medical Association Welcomes COP30 Health Community Recommendations ahead of Health Day](#), 11.11.2025
- [WHPA Urges COP30 to Build Climate-Smart, Health Professional-Led Health Systems under the Belém Health Action Plan](#), 06.11.2025

Lancet Countdown global report 2025 on health and climate change:

- Last August, the WMA was invited to contribute to the [Lancet Countdown consultation for the refinement of climate change and health indicators](#). After 9 years of annual indicator reporting, the aim of this consultation was to ensure that the indicators continue to reflect the areas most relevant to equitable action on health and climate change. The Council Chair appointed Dr Laura Jung, Chair of the WMA Environment Workgroup, to contribute to the consultation on behalf of the WMA. The [2025 Global Report of the Lancet Countdown](#) was launched late October.

- Dr Jacqueline Kitulu, WMA President, was invited to participate in a panel discussion during an online “**Debrief for health professionals: Insights from the 2025 Lancet Countdown on health and climate change**” held on December 10. Building on the findings of the Lancet Countdown, this debriefing session, organised by Health Care Without Harm (HCWH), reviewed the latest data and trends and explored strategies to strengthen the resilience of health systems. Dr Kitulu emphasised the central role of health professionals in advancing climate and health action. The recording of the event is available [online](#).

Invitation for World Medical Association to join the [WHO ATACH initiative](#):

Last November, the WMA received an invitation to join the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH), an alliance working to achieve the ambition set at COP26 to build climate resilient and sustainable health systems. While welcoming this invitation – and before forwarding the request to the Executive Committee with its recommendation – the WMA environment workgroup wishes to clarify with ATACH their expectations and the various working structures within the alliance to which the WMA could make a useful contribution.

3.4.3 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, 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 Convention implementation process and its impact on health, mainly through its newsletter.

Following the adoption of the [WMA Resolution on Plastics and Health](#) in October 2024 in Helsinki, the Secretariat is monitoring the intergovernmental negotiations on the UN treaty on plastics and provides WMA members with up-to-date information on this subject in its newsletter.

3.4.4 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.

3.5 Artificial Intelligence (AI), Health Data and Medical Technologies

The WMA General Assembly in Porto last October adopted the [WMA Statement on Artificial and Augmented Intelligence in Medical Care](#), elaborated under the auspices of the Workgroup on Medical Technology.

In January, the WMA was invited to participate in a **study** conducted by a researcher at Ghent University in Belgium on the use of AI in health care, gender awareness, and awareness of gender bias in AI among physicians. The invitation was shared with WMA members.

The WMA has been invited to participate in an [International Conference on the Responsible Scale of AI in Health Care](#), organised by the Spanish Ministry of Health and the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) next May in Madrid. This high-level, invitation-only event will bring together global experts to develop an action plan for the responsible and equitable integration of AI in health care. AI holds transformative potential for delivering high-quality, accessible, and affordable health care, but its rapid advancement risks fragmented and inconsistent implementation across countries. In preparation for the AI Madrid conference, the OECD and the DTH-Lab held a pre-consultation meeting in March 2026, where Dr Julia Tainijoki, Senior Medical Advisor, represented the WMA and contributed to shaping the draft Action Plan. The Executive Committee appointed **Dr Ramin Parsa-Parsi**, the incoming Secretary General of the WMA effective 1 May, to represent the WMA at the conference.

The WMA was invited by the Ethiopian Medical Association to assist in finding a keynote speaker for the 62nd Annual Medical Conference, scheduled for March 27–28, 2026 on the theme “**The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Enhancing Medical Education, Health care Services, and Research in Ethiopia.**” The request was forwarded to the Medical Technology Workgroup, which recommended Dr Jacob Matthew (Kuwait Medical Association, member of the workgroup) to speak in his personal capacity as a leading expert on AI in the medical field.

4. HEALTH SYSTEMS

4.1 World Patient Safety Day

The WMA is a member of the World Patient Safety Day (WPSD) Steering Committee, represented by Dr Julia Tainijoki, Senior Medical Advisor, and at its first meeting it was decided that the WPSD 2026 will have the theme ‘Patient safety in noncommunicable diseases’. WMA is working closely with WHO and the steering committee to develop a campaign and communication activities around that day.

Amid the rapidly evolving health care landscape, there remains a critical gap in coordinated, high-level strategic guidance on patient safety. While valuable initiatives exist, they often operate in isolation, lacking a unified platform to anticipate risks and drive systemic change. In response, the Joint Commission International (JCI) has proposed the establishment of a **Global Patient Safety Leadership Council**—a multi-stakeholder body dedicated to fostering thought leadership, knowledge-sharing, and advocacy to shape the global patient safety agenda. Aligned with JCI’s vision of ensuring the safest, highest-quality care worldwide, the Council aims to serve as a central hub for dialogue and transformative action. Dr Julia Tainijoki, Senior Medical Advisor, attended the Council’s inaugural meeting, and the WMA will determine its formal participation in due course.

4.2 Antimicrobial resistance & One Health

During World Antimicrobial Awareness Week in November 2025, the WMA together with the members of WHPA organised a webinar with the title: Bridging Global Health Agendas: NCDs, AMR, and Interprofessional Collaboration. As antimicrobial resistance increases, so does the threat to millions of NCD patients who are at high risk of infection. People living with non-communicable diseases are more vulnerable to drug-resistant infections, and often have higher exposure to antimicrobials, for example due to diabetes-related infections or because of cancer treatments. Given the diversity of NCD-related health settings and specialities, it is vitally important to improve AMR stewardship across the professions.

The 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)). WMA participated in the annual WHO AMR partners forum in December 2025, which focused on developing sustainable partnership coordination mechanisms to share information, build capacity, accelerate implementation, improve efficiencies, and document all contributions to AMR responses in countries.

WMA is a member of several workgroups and panels within this partnership. Dr Caline Mattar was invited to represent the WMA in the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against Antimicrobial Resistance and is a member of the stewardship lifecycle subgroup to develop a practical, comprehensive One Health framework for global and local stewardship that ensures the availability of effective antimicrobials while curbing resistance across human, animal, plant, and environmental sectors.

The WMA was selected as member for the **WHO Civil Society Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**. The Task Force is meant to support and strengthen the WHO's engagement with nongovernmental organizations including civil society groups globally, and to foster collaboration, build capacity, and amplify the voices of affected communities in the fight against AMR. The mission of the Task Force is to ensure that civil society groups can effectively contribute to the global AMR response, securing equitable access to prevention, treatment, and care for all, especially vulnerable populations.

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.

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 was actively engaged in the process. The instrument has 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 has aimed to prevent the international spread of disease since 1969 (last revised in 2005).

At the World Health Assembly in May 2025, the INB was accepted and an open-ended **Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) on the WHO Pandemic Agreement** was established to define the modalities of implementation. WMA is observer to this working group, and the first meeting took place in August and September 2025.

4.4 Health workforce and Health Systems

The 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 interim recommendation of the Advisory Boards is to include 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 mobility pathway 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 WHO Executive Committee approved the interim report of the Expert Advisory Group and it is up for adoption at the next World Health Assembly.

The WMA participated in the **OECD Business at OECD (BIAC) Health Forum in December 2025 in Paris**, represented by Dr Julia Tainijoki, Senior Medical Advisor. This event brought together global leaders to explore how health can drive productivity, economic resilience, and innovation. The Forum’s agenda highlighted critical topics such as predictive health, climate-resilient health systems, workforce readiness, and innovative financing models—all areas where the WMA’s expertise and advocacy can contribute meaningfully. As the officially recognized business stakeholder at the OECD, BIAC offers a unique platform for the WMA to engage with OECD and get direct information on the

global health activities of OECD. Participation in BIAC provides the WMA with valuable opportunities to influence policy debates, share best practices, and collaborate with key stakeholders to address pressing health challenges in OECD member countries and beyond. WMA will determine its formal membership in BIAC as a way to strengthen our cooperation and influence in OECD in due course.

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 chapter II, section [2.2](#) “Protecting patients and physicians.”

CHAPTER II PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION

1. REGIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS AND STANDING CONFERENCES

The WMA maintains a regular and close relation with 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), the Southeast European Medical Forum (SEEMF) and SARC (South Asia regional Council).

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)

158th Executive Board (February 2026)

- [Follow-up to the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases](#)
- [Mental Health](#)
- [Communicable diseases: Immunisation Agenda 2030](#)
- [Primary Health Care](#)
- [Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
- [Harmonization of regulatory approaches, governance and standards for data, digital health and artificial intelligence in the health sector](#) (WHPA constituency statement)
- [Economics of health for all](#) (WHPA constituency statement)

Other WHO meetings attended during the reporting period:

- Dr Lujain AlQodmani was selected to continue as a member of the Steering Committee of the WHO Civil Society Commission and be the representative of the World Medical Association
- [Intergovernmental Working Group \(IGWG\) on the WHO Pandemic Agreement](#)
- WHO World Patient Safety Day 2026 steering committee meeting: “Patient safety in noncommunicable diseases”
- Launch of the WHO handbook on integrated care for older people (ICOPE): guidance for person-centred assessment and pathways in primary care
- 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 in a WHO working group on Clinical Ethics in 2024 and 2025. The work focuses on the need for ethics support in clinical settings. A final report is not foreshadowed before the end of 2025.

3. OTHER UN AGENCIES

AGENCY	ACTIVITIES
<p>Human Rights Council (HRC) of the United Nations</p> <p>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 and detention.</p> <p>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)</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 Special Rapporteurs and promotion of relevant activities through the WMA’s media channels - Submission of WMA contribution focused on detention on death row from both a medical and ethical perspective. - Participation in an Expert Group meeting on the use of technology in prisons organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on 10-12 November in Vienna.
<p>UNAIDS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular exchange of information
<p>OECD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular exchange of information - Invitation to participate in the International Conference on the Responsible Scale of AI in Health Care organised by the Ministry of Health of Spain and the OECD, on 28-29 May 2026 in Spain - Collaboration on surveying WMA members and partner organisations on the financialisation of ambulatory care - Attending the BIAC Health Forum in December 2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attending pre-consultation meeting for the International Conference on the Responsible Scale of AI in Health Care
<p>International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Health Division</p>	<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 -
<p>Council of Europe – Santiago de Compostela Convention Against Trafficking in Human Organs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://www.coe.int/en/web/trafficking-human-organs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs is the first international convention fighting organ trafficking. For countries ratifying the convention, it becomes a legally binding international instrument. The convention is open to all countries, not only European countries. - The convention is monitored by a Conference of Parties (COP) to which the WMA has been granted observer status in recognition of its work in the field of organ transplantation. - For the WMA Council, Dr Tomas Cobo serves as observer.

4. WORLD HEALTH PROFESSIONS ALLIANCE (WHPA)

The **World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA)** and the **WMA** are actively engaged in advocating for the central role of health professionals in addressing global health challenges. At the **4th United Nations High-Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Mental Health** in September 2025, WHPA leaders highlighted the urgent need for governments to invest in their health workforce, warning that commitments in the Political Declaration risk failure without adequate support. WHPA stressed the importance of empowering health professionals with the right policies, resources, and collaborative opportunities to deliver high-quality, integrated care for individuals living with NCDs.

Additionally, during the **30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30)** in Belém, Brazil, WHPA called on global leaders to place health professionals at the heart of implementing the **Belém Health Action Plan (BHAP)**. This plan serves as a global roadmap for building climate-resilient and sustainable health systems, underscoring the critical link between environmental action and public health. Both initiatives reflect WHPA and WMA’s commitment to ensuring that health professionals are equipped and positioned to drive meaningful change in global health policy and practice.

During World Antimicrobial Awareness Week in November 2025, WHPA organised a webinar entitled “Bridging Global Health Agendas: NCDs, AMR, and Interprofessional Collaboration” and started a social media campaign. 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 1 January 2026, 1 131 746.07 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 in 2025 at 491 612 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.”

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 organised by Prof. Dr Amnon Carmi, now by

	<p>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 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. This programme has been successfully launched over the past decade in the area of basic medical education.
- 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 development of 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.

In 2025, the WFME started a common project together with the [International Academy for CPD Accreditation](#), and the [Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education \(USA\)](#). This project transfers the experiences of the recognition of accreditation programme of WFME into the area of CPD/CME. It aims to achieve high quality levels of CPD/CME internationally.

The World Medical Association participated with President Lujain AlQodmani and Secretary General Otmar Kloiber at the World Conference on Medical Education in [Bangkok 25-28 May 2025](#). With around 1,000 participants, the conference was a great success and helped to foster the idea of common standards in medical education. The conference was created in the 1950s by the WMA and was later taken over by WFME. It brings together medical educators from across the globe to discuss methods and strategies for medical education.

8. VIENNA CONGRESS 27 JANUARY 2025

After receiving the Golden Arrow Award in 2021, the World Medical Association has now participated for the fifth time in the annual Vienna Congress, which brings together scientists, Nobel Prize laureates, politicians, entrepreneurs and medical leaders to discuss current challenges and innovative solutions.

The 23rd Vienna Congress was held under the theme **“Preparing for the Future.”** As in previous years, the WMA President was invited to participate in the discussions.

At the opening session, Dr Jacqueline Kitulu delivered a keynote presentation on *medicine and the arts* and presented the laudation for this year’s special awardee, the World Doctors Orchestra.

Dr Kitulu also participated in the panel discussion **“The Future of Medicine: Digital, Connected, Innovative.”** Dr Otmar Kloiber, WMA Secretary General, took part in the panel discussion **“Europe’s Future: From Connectivity to Critical Resources.”**

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 enable the WMA to host its online education and 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@weca.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 - Contribution to the bi-annual meetings of the Forum

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 (https://cioms.ch/)
<u>Global Alliance on Alcohol Policy (GAPA)</u>	Regular exchange of information, in the context of the WHO action plan (2022-2030) to effectively implement the WHO's Global Alcohol Strategy as a public health priority.
<u>Global Climate & Health Alliance (GCHA)</u>	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)	Contact on issues of common interest on sexual orientation and gender identity in sport.
<u>Human Rights Watch</u>	Regular contact on issues of common interest 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) initiative 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, on WHO Global Health and Peace Initiative and detention related issues. - Ad hoc consultations on WMA's policies of shared concern, subject 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>

	<p>On 6 May, WMA participated in the IFAPP webinar ““Ethics in Data-driven Research: WMA Declaration of Taipei on Health Databases and Biobanks” Part 1: Introduction and future direction.</p> <p>IFAPP continues to be involved in our DoT revision process.</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, collaborated to advocate for the update of WHO's studies on the effects of nuclear war on health.
<u>International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of information on specific cases or situations related to the role of health personnel to prevent / document torture
Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WMA and MSF agreed on a mutual partnership in 2023 - Regular exchange of information and collaboration in the context of violence against health personnel.
Physicians for Human Rights (PHR)	Regular exchange of information on attacks against health personnel and respect of the human right to health.
Pontifical Academy for Life	Cooperation on current issues of medical ethics or socio-medical affairs i.e. the Declaration of Helsinki, Declaration of Taipei, 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>	On the occasion of the WVA General Assembly 2025, on 18 July, the WVA and WMA renewed their Memorandum of Understanding. Both organisations want to jointly tackle questions under “One Health” like antimicrobial resistance, zoonosis, pandemic preparedness and food safety with respect to common activities and common educational efforts.

CHAPTER III COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

11. PRESS RELEASES

Eighteen press releases have been issued over the past 5 months, available below in reverse chronological order.

03.03.2026	World Medical Association Announces Appointment of Dr Ramin Parsa-Parsi as Secretary General
18.02.2026	World Health Professions Alliance Calls for Urgent Global Action to Protect Health Personnel from Violence and Persecution
02.02.2026	An Open Letter Ahead of the 158th WHO Executive Board and 79th World Health Assembly
28.01.2026	World Physicians Urge Iran to End Violence Against Health Personnel
21.01.2026	WMA Condemns Violence Against Medical Personnel in Syria
15.01.2026	World Medical Association Appeals for Rapid and Unobstructed Delivery of Emergency Aid in Gaza
15.01.2026	World Medical Association Condemns the Attack on Ilam Hospital and Violations of Medical Neutrality in Iran
14.01.2026	The EU Biotech Act Must Safeguard Ethical Standards For Clinical Trials
11.11.2025	World Medical Association Welcomes COP30 Health Community Recommendations Ahead of Health Day
07.11.2025	WMA Calls on Israel to Ensure Fair Trial Standards for Detained Gaza Physician
06.11.2025	WHPA Urges COP30 to Build Climate-Smart, Health Professional-Led Health Systems under the Belém Health Action Plan
31.10.2025	World Medical Association Strongly Condemns the Massacre of Patients and Health Workers in Sudan
21.10.2025	The World Medical Association General Assembly 2025 in Summary
15.10.2025	World Medical Association Emphasizes the Importance of Physician Leadership in Health Care Amid Global Workforce Shortages
14.10.2025	World Physician Leaders Call for Ethical, Physician-Led Integration of Artificial and Augmented Intelligence in Health Care
13.10.2025	World Medical Association Urges Israeli Government to Uphold Humanitarian Law and Protect Health care in Gaza
10.10.2025	New WMA President Calls for Global Physician Solidarity, Mentorship and Primary Health care Advocacy
02.10.2025	World Medical Association Calls for Immediate Release of Dr Ahmadreza Djalali

12. 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 4,500 recipients, through a mailing system that complies with GDPR regulations.

13. WMA SOCIAL MEDIA (X, LINKEDIN, FACEBOOK, BLUESKY AND YOUTUBE)

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 17,000. 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](#): The number of followers has reached more than 16,000 reflecting substantial growth compared to the previous year. Popular content has included short videos, event highlights, advocacy messages, and controversial topics related to military conflicts.

[Facebook](#): Short videos, updates, photos from events and impactful advocacy messages have resonated strongly with our audience of 16,000 followers.

[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.

[YouTube](#): The WMA YouTube channel continues to serve as a repository for video content and educational resources, including recordings of webinars organised by WMA working groups and associate members, interventions made during WHO Executive Board and World Health Assembly sessions, and statements from WMA leadership.

The channel also hosts recordings of policy discussions, expert meetings and thematic webinars, contributing to the accessibility of WMA's work for a broader international audience. It currently has almost 1,000 subscribers.

14. 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. The WMJ is available on the [WMA website](#) in an electronic format. Dr Helena Chapman holds the position of editor-in-chief of the Journal, and it is managed by Ms Maira Sudraba of the Latvian Medical Association.

15. 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, 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.

16. 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. In 2026, two bioethics students from UPENN and one or two IFMSA students are expected for the internship.

17. 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. In addition to the newsletter, the JDN launched a podcast, featuring insightful discussions led by young physicians on topics ranging from global health and leadership to medical ethics and advocacy.

18. 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

The WMA Strategic Plan 2026-2030 was adopted in October 2025 in Porto and available at the WMA website: <https://www.wma.net/what-we-do/wma-strategic-plan/>

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 organisations, be they (inter-)governmental or private. We highly appreciate their willingness and efforts to enable our cooperation.

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13.03.2026