



THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

**to the
WMA General Assembly, Reykjavik 2018
(April September 2018)**

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<p>August-Sept. 2018</p> <p><u>Sources:</u></p>	<p>In late August, the Uganda Medical Association (UMA) contacted us regarding ongoing practices of torture in Ugandan places of detention and denial of access to health care. In agreement with UMA, letters were sent to the Ugandan authorities and a press release was issued.</p>
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2.2.2

2.4 Pain treatment

The WMA continues to be active in the field of palliative care in cooperation with the WHO and civil society organisations working in this area. Within the context of the current global discussion and the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the world drug problem, the WMA made a public statement at the session of the WHO Executive Board (January 2017) on the public health dimension of the issue, underlining the need for a committed public health approach encompassing the availability and access to medicines for effective treatment and related healthcare services.

On 1 March, the advisory group on palliative care of the Pontifical Academy for Life issued a White Paper on Global Palliative Care Advocacy including a set of "Selected recommendations" calling on various stakeholders in the health care sector to step up advocacy for health. As a representative of professional associations, they called upon the WMA to especially foster the human rights aspect of access to palliative care.

2.5 Health through peace

On 7 July 2017, country representatives meeting at a United Nations conference in New York adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, the first multilateral legally-binding instrument for nuclear disarmament to have been negotiated in 20 years.

On the occasion of the opening for signature of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in New York on 20 September 2017, the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPN) together with the WMA, the International Council of Nurses and the World Federation of Public Health Associations, adopted a [joint Statement](#) urging Member States to sign the Treaty and to ratify it as soon as possible thereafter so that it can enter into force.

The WMA and

During the WHO Executive Board meeting, the WMA made an intervention for the preparation of the next high-level meeting on NCDs during the 2018 UN General Assembly in New York and emphasized the strong commitment of the WMA in the fight against NCDs. Following the long engagement of WMA with the WHO GCM secretariat, WHO appointed Dr Yokokura, WMA president, to be a member of the **WHO Civil Society Workgroup** to advise the Director General on the planning and advocacy of the **High Level meeting on NCDs** and on the

October 2018

During the reporting period, the WMA promoted the [recommendations](#) from the German Medical Association on the management of patients with a history of female genital mutilation (FGM).

3.3.2 Refugees, migrants & access to health

workforce education in support of Universal Health coverage involves participation in meetings organized by WHO and providing technical assistance and guidance for the eBook.

Dr Yokokura, WMA President, spoke at the opening session of the Universal Health Coverage Forum in Tokyo in December 2017. The goal of the Forum was to mobilize broad political support for accelerating progress towards UHC and the SDGs, including health security and pandemic preparedness. This forum brought together over 300 participants, including heads of government, ministers of finance and health, and senior representatives from bi- and multi-lateral institutions, civil society organizations, think tanks, and academia. At the forum, WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and WMA President Dr Yoshitake Yokokura agreed to strengthen the collaboration of both organizations on universal health coverage and emergency preparedness. Accordingly, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 5 April 2018 in Geneva.

3.5 Counterfeit medical products

Counterfeit medicines are manufactured below established standards of safety, quality and efficacy. They are deliberately and fraudulently mislabelled with respect to identity and/or source. Counterfeiting can apply to both brand name and generic products, and counterfeit medicines may include products with the correct ingredients but fake packaging, products with the wrong ingredients, products without active ingredients, or

In August 2018, the WMA Secretariat launched a [WMA Green List](#) through the Slack platform. Its purpose is to facilitate and promote an exchange of information within WMA membership on issues related specifically to health and the environment. The list is open to all WMA associate members and interested constituent members.

4. Health Systems

4.1 Primary health Care

On the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the Declaration of Alma-Ata, the Second International Conference on Primary Health Care will be hosted by the President of

(UNICEF) in Astana, Kazakhstan from 25-26 October 2018. The Conference aims to strengthen primary health care as the foundation for UHC, building on lessons learnt over the past four decades.

Dr Otmar Kloiber, Secretary General, is a member of the International Advisory Committee for the preparation of the Primary Health Care Conference. The WMA has commented on the conference declaration and the technical background papers.

Recently, the WMA Secretariat and WMA members have noticed a tendency in international discussions, personal exchanges and public events towards a push to downgrade primary health care. Some international organisations think physicians in primary health care could be replaced by mid or even low level cadres equipped with decision support tools for diagnosis. The reason for this push can be found in the fact that the WHO, OECD and ILO have projected a shortfall of 18 million health workers worldwide by 2030. In addition, national health expenditure is constantly rising, many countries have difficulties implementing universal health coverage and many people have doubts about how to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In this challenging environment some might think downgrading could be an easy solution. The WMA strongly advocates for a high quality, physician-led primary health care system, which is closely linked with health promotion, prevention, secondary and tertiary care.

4.2 Patient safety

In order to address the global problems of **unsafe medication practices**, the WHO has launched a Global Patient Safety Challenge on Medication Safety with the overall goal to avoidable harm due to unsafe medication practices by 50% worldwide by stakeholders to several consultations this year.

Some years ago, the WMA, along with the WHO and the other health professions, wrote the - and also participated in its update a few years later. Now the WHO would like to carry out a second revision of this curriculum guide in several steps. As the first step, the chapter will be updated in such a way that it can also stand alone as a single document. At a first meeting in December 2017 we discussed the topics, order and priorities of this chapter. Based on this discussion, the WHO will develop a first revised version to be commented on by the WMA and other health professionals.

Commercialised health care models may affect professional autonomy and the quality of delivered

ensure patient-centred quality care based on ethical principles, as opposed to profit-oriented models of care. Professional autonomy through self-regulation defines standards and ensures quality for health care models. Therefore, regulation has an important role in the implementation of strategies such as the WHO Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health to accelerate UHC and ensure a sustainable health workforce.

Dr Julia Tainijoki, WMA Medical Advisor, spoke at another side event during this forum

Addressing discrimination in health care settings through a focus on the rights, roles and responsibilities of health workers
perspective and WMA policies on this issue.

4.6 **Violence in the health sector**

Building on the success of the previous conference in Dublin, preparatory work has started for the [sixth International Conference on violence in the health sector](#), which will take place in Toronto, Canada on 24 - 26 October 2018. The WMA is a member of the organisation and scientific committees in charge of the preparations for the event. Two meetings of the organisation committee took place during the reporting period. C. Delorme, as a member of the Committee, liaised with the ICRC so that a representative of the Health Care in Danger initiative will be invited to the conference as a keynote speaker.

4.7 **Caring Physicians of the World Initiative Leadership Course**

The CPW Project began with the Caring Physicians of the World book, published in English in October 2005 and in Spanish in March 2007. Some hard copies (English and Spanish) are still available from the [WMA Secretariat](#) upon request.

Regional conferences were held in Latin America, the Asia-Pacific region, Europe and Africa between 2005 and 2007. The CPW Project was extended to include a leadership

CHAPTER II PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION

During the reporting period, the WMA Secretariat held bilateral meetings with the WHO and staff of other UN agencies on the following areas: Prevention of alcohol abuse, mental health, violence against women, the environment, the migration of health professionals and the prevention of

follows²:

1. World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO Governance
<p>Memorandum of Understanding between WHO and WMA In April 2018 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the World Health Organisation and the World Medical Association to reaffirm and consolidate co-operation between the two organisations.</p>
<p>WHO Executive Board, January 2018, Geneva, Switzerland: The WMA made public statements on a series of issues. For more information (agenda, working documents and resolutions), see http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_eb142.html</p> <p>71st World Health Assembly, May 2018, Geneva, Switzerland: The WMA made a series of public statements. For more information on the WHA, visit the dedicated website</p>
WHO Public Health Events

sessions. Immediate Past President Dr Xavier Deau held a keynote speech at the opening of the conference.

The WMA was again invited to arrange two scientific sessions at the 12th UNESCO Chair of Bioethics Conference held in Limassol, Cyprus from 21-23 March 2017. The first discussed the

was moderated by Dr Ramin Parsa-Parsi, Chair of the WMA work group, and Prof. Urban Wiesing, director of our cooperating institute at the University of Tübingen. The second session was moderated by WMA Past President Dr Jon Snædal and Dr Otmar Kloiber, with contributions by Dr Emmanuell Rial-Sibag from our cooperating Center at the University of Neuchatel and Ms Annabel Seebohm, Secretary General of the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME).

The WMA JETQ289.3018

Institut de droit de la santé, Université de Neuchâtel, Switzerland	International health law, developing and promoting the Declaration of Taipei, medical ethics, deontology, sports medicine
Steve Biko Center for Bioethics, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa	Revising the Declaration of Helsinki, medical ethics, bioethics
Institute for Environmental Research, Yonsei University College of Medicine, South Korea	Environmental health, climate change and health issues

6. World Continuing Education Alliance (WCEA)

The World Medical Association 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 offers 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 the WMA Secretary General (secretariat@wma.net) for more information. The educational platform was launched in June 2018.

7. Other partnerships or collaborations with Health and Human Rights Organizations

Organisation	Activity
Amnesty International	Ongoing contacts (exchange of information and support) during the reporting period, in particular on the situations in Turkey, Ethiopia, Uganda and Iran.
Human Rights Watch	Regular contact on issues of common interest.
Global Alliance on Alcohol Policy (GAPA) and its members	Regular exchange of information.
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Partners on the Health Care in Danger (HCiD) project since September 2011. Permanent cooperation with the Health in Detention and HCiD Departments. Memorandum of understanding between the ICRC and the WMA signed in November 2016.
International Council of Military Medicine (ICMM)	A Memorandum of Understanding between the ICMM and the WMA was signed at the WMA General Assembly in October 2017 (Chicago).
Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS)	Development of guidance for the scientific community in medicine and health care in general. The WMA is a member and currently represented on the Executive Board and participates in various work groups in matters of research in resource poor settings, patient information and healthy research subjects (planned).
Medical Human Rights Network (IFHHRO)	Regular exchange of information on human rights and health matters.
International Federation of Medical Students	

Associations (IFMSA)

Regular collaboration, mostly in relation to WHO statutory meetings.

Participation of WMA officers and officials in the pre

CHAPTER III COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

In July 2017 a new member of staff joined the WMA Secretariat. Ms Magda Mihaila is a journalist and communications specialist who is now helping our team improve the way we get out messages to our members and into our social media stream.

1. WMA Newsletter

In April 2012, the WMA Secretariat started a bi-monthly e-newsletter for its members. The Secretariat appreciates any comments and suggestions for developing this service and making it as useful for members as possible.

2. WMA social media (Twitter and Facebook)

In 2013, the WMA launched its official [Facebook](#) and Twitter accounts (@medwma). The Secretariat encourages members to spread the word within their associations that they can
 Besides communicating WMA activities and policies, the accounts have proved a powerful tool for supporting WMA Constituent Members in difficult political and social contexts.

3. The World Medical Journal

The World Medical Journal (WMJ) is issued every 3 months and includes articles on WMA activities and feature articles by members and partners. The 60th anniversary edition was published as a final printed copy in 2014. It transferred to an electronic format in 2015, which is available on the [WMA website](#). The Journal is edited by Dr Peteris Apinis and Prof. Elmar Doppelfeld and technically managed by Ms Maira Sudraba at the Latvian Medical Association.

4. WMA African Initiative

WMA President 2013-2014, Dr Margaret Mungherera, started an initiative to bring African medical associations closer to the WMA. The idea was that stronger inclusion of organised medicine in international cooperation should not only help to get the African voice better heard but would also leverage national visibility and standing.

Dr Mungherera brought together medical associations from various parts of Africa in small regional meetings to discuss issues around their current work, what obstacles they face and where they have had success. Invitations are open to all African medical associations, regardless of whether they are already members of the WMA.

Dr Mungherera set up regional consultative meetings with African NMAs in Kenya, South Africa, Tunisia and Nigeria. This initiative has been supported by the medical associations of South Africa and Tunisia, WMA President 2014-2015, Dr Xavier Deau, Past Chair of Council, Dr Mukesh Haikerwal, as well as the Chairman of the Past-Presidents and Chairs of Council Network, Dr Dana Hanson.

Immediate Past-President Dr Mungherera delivered presentations on issues around the

Medical Association (SAMA), Spanish Medical Association (CGCoM), American Medical Association (AMA), Japanese Medical Association (JMA), French Medical Association (CNOM), Junior Doctors Network (JDN).

2. Paperless meetings

At its 188th meeting, the WMA Council expressed its desire to reduce its environmental impact by going paperless. Since the 189th Council meeting, documents posted on the website before the meeting have no longer been provided at the venue in print. Council members and officials

bringing them to the meeting via electronic media or on paper, if desired. Documents developed on site during the meeting are available online via a WiFi connection or in print. The Secretariat introduced box.com at the 197th Council meeting as a parallel sharing and synchronizing tool for official WMA documents. In October 2016, the WMA General Assembly in Taipei decided to introduce entirely paperless meetings provided a suitable WiFi connection is available.

3. Governance