

## Revision of Handbook for non-State actors Call for comments June 2021

### Introduction

World Cancer Research Fund International (**WCRF International**) leads and unifies a network of cancer prevention charities with a global reach. We are the world's leading authority on cancer prevention research related to diet, weight and physical activity. We work collaboratively with organisations around the world to encourage governments to implement policies to prevent cancer and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs). WCRF International has been in official relations with WHO since 2016.

### Overview:

We welcome the opportunity to feed into the revision of the handbook and contribute to the smooth operationalisation of FENSA to ensure non-State actor (NSA) engagement reaches its full potential.

The proposed recommendations aim to enhance the engagement of non-State actors in official relations by facilitating planning and preparedness, increasing NSA understanding of processes and navigating protocols while in official relations. Furthermore, we advise the provision of guidance on the relevant WHO NSA contact points based on their role and remit.

### Specific recommendations:

#### 1. Section 1: What is FENSA?

Following the recommendations that resulted from the evaluation of FENSA approved during EB146, we welcome proposals to enhance communication on the FENSA externally in a targeted and detailed way for NSAs in official relations. We believe that any changes in communication modalities should be reflected and carried forward in the NSA handbook.

**Recommendation:** We believe recommendations from EB 146 need to be specifically detailed in Section 1, highlighting new developments and changes in procedures. It would also be helpful to indicate when to expect further changes to arise within the cycle of governing body meetings, so NSAs can be sighted and know when to expect updates.

#### 2. Section 5: Engagement: Step by Step Process

In the Step-to-Step process of the handbook, instructions are given for the initial submission of NSA profiles. However, the process of updating profiles is not outlined in a yearly timetable with indicative deadlines. This makes it difficult for an organisation to plan and ensure supporting documents such as funding sources are prepared in advance.

**Recommendation:** an indicative timetable should be provided to outline the annual profile update process. A schematic representation of the step-by-step process would also be helpful.

### **3. Section 7: Non-State actors in official relations**

In this section, we would welcome further elucidation of several due diligence aspects which NSAs in official relations need to perform. There is a gap in information about the step-by-step process and indicative deadlines for reporting processes such as annual activity reporting and triennial report development. NSAs would benefit from a detailed timeline that includes indicative timeframes and deadlines to better manage multi-staged processes and facilitate non-State actors' timely submissions of triennial reports for review by the Board. Whilst we appreciate that the process will differ for different NSAs, an overview of the process would be beneficial. This would allow NSAs to plan and prepare for the profile updating process accordingly and ensure that deadlines are met.

**Recommendation:** a detailed indicative timetable and schematic outline of the process for submissions, stages of review, deadlines and other relevant information is needed.

#### **Other comments:**

##### Contact details for NSA team

Furthermore, in relation to non-State actors engaging in Governing Body meetings, further detailed contact information would be welcome regarding submissions, connection, and delivery of statements. This will help NSAs to access the right support to resolve urgent issues particularly during the busy period of the World Health Assembly and Executive Board meetings.

**Recommendation:** detailed contact information for WHO focal points for different issues need to be made available, together with a reference of estimated time of response from each department.

#### **For further information, please contact:**

Kate Oldridge-Turner, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, WCRF International  
[k.oldridge-turner@wcrf.org](mailto:k.oldridge-turner@wcrf.org)

Magdalena Wetzel, Policy and Public Affairs Manager, WCRF International  
[m.wetzel@wcrf.org](mailto:m.wetzel@wcrf.org)