

**Statement to the 69<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly**  
**Agenda item 11.3 Framework for Engagement with non-State Actors**

Thank you, Chair, for the opportunity to address the distinguished members of WHA on behalf of MMI, TWN and PHM.

We strongly believe that a strong regulation of WHO's engagement with the Private Sector is critical in ensuring the independence and credibility of WHO and its unique role as the world's premier public health authority. In order to be true to WHO's constitutional mandate, robust safeguards against undue influences need to be in place.

We acknowledge the efforts of MS that have strived to strengthen this framework during the OEIM. We particularly welcome the agreement on the exclusion of secondment by the PS and the possibility to reclassify NSAs subjected to influence of the PS.

Nevertheless we consider that some issues remain of concern, especially in the WHO's PS policy.

We urge MS to consider that, in order to avoid undue influence from the PS, its contributions should never be used for work involving the setting and formulation of norms, policies and standards. In-kind contributions related to such work should be assessed based on possible Conflict of Interest issues and other risks. It is fundamental to ensure that WHO keep full control over activities that are subject to contributions from the PS and that salaries of WHO staff are not drawn from PS resources. In this regard, we support the idea of a pooled fund that would help to reduce the risk of undue influence.

Finally, we are still deeply concerned about the retention of the possibility for WHO to engage with PS through technical collaborations in the field of capacity building, which is an important channel for the exercise of undue influence. We urge MS to exclude the PS from the field of capacity building even through the medium of technical collaboration.

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