

144th Session of the WHO Executive Board, 24 January – February 1st, 2019 Geneva

Agenda 7.3: Engagement with non-State actors- Non-State actors in official relations with WHO

Response to WHO Report EB144/37: http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwaha/pdf_files/EB144/B144_37-en.pdf

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of the World Heart Federation supported by Bloomberg's STOP Initiative- Stopping Tobacco Organizations and Products (STOP), a tobacco industry watchdog comprised of The University of Bath, The Global Centre for Good Governance in Tobacco Control, South-East Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA), and The Union. An open letter has also been sent to all members of the Executive Board.

We thank the Director-General (DG) for his report on the status of implementation of the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (FENSA).

In their open letter to the EB, the Philip Morris-funded Foundation for a Smoke-Free World pointed to the DG's report, which notes the difficulty of coming up with a consistent definition of what it means to be furthering the interests of the tobacco industry, and is using this to question WHO's stance.

The WHO FCTC and the decisions of its governing body provide clarity on this – those who receive funding from the tobacco industry are deemed as furthering its interest, and this includes the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World.

In light of the global partnership initiatives to attain the SDGs, we call on WHO to take the lead in implementing the Model policy for agencies of the United Nations (UN) system on preventing tobacco industry interference.

And with the aggressive networking of the PMI funded entity, potential SDG partners/NSAs must be informed that WHO will not partner with grantees of the PMI funded entity.

We look forward to supporting WHO in these efforts.