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WHO Secretariat

Reference

WHO STRATEGY OF ENGAGEMENT WITH NON-STATE ACTORS

- Finland finds it important for WHO to have a clear, comprehensive and transparent strategy of engagement with non-State Actors. Such a strategy should be based on three principles:
 1. WHO should be able to have different forms of engagement with a variety of actors
 2. Such an engagement should be based on a clear benefit to public health
 3. The strategy should have built in safeguards for WHO's good name and respect the intergovernmental nature of the organization.
- We believe that it is important to keep the right balance between engagement and protection, as has been achieved in the current version of the framework.
- It is important that the same practices are implemented throughout the organization, at all levels and in all regions.
- It is equally important that the non-State Actors have a clear understanding of the rules and right expectations for their engagement.
- Finland can accept the total ban on secondments from the NSA's. However, should the policy change so that some secondments are allowed, the following needs to be taken into account: policy making is the prerogative of Member States. Therefore we are of the opinion that any secondments funded by the NSA's should be limited to activities relating to implementation of policies, only.
- We would like to receive more information what is meant by 'personnel' in relation to sections on 'resources' (para 18 on page 14, para 7 on page 25, para 15 on page 29, para 7 on page 35, para 8 on page 38). The same caveat as for secondments should apply here: it should be limited to activities relating to implementation of policies, only.
- On the question of donations of medicines and other health technologies (para 20 on page 30), we are of the opinion that such donations should be more directly linked to the WHO model list of essential medicines, taking into account flexibilities needed for emergency situations (such as with Ebola medicines and vaccines). On para 20 (f), there is a word 'life' missing at the end.
- On boundaries, we agree that WHO should not engage in any form with the tobacco or arms industries. We believe that there are some industries that have clear interests in health policies (such as those linked with control of NCDs) with whom WHO should use high level of restriction but where there may still be the need to engage in e.g. information sharing or advocacy.
- Finland agrees with the importance of clear criteria when the private sector policy is applied to an entity.
- Finland highly appreciates the development of the web based registry on non-State Actors.

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