



## **Draft Framework for engagement with non-State actors-Specific comments by the United Kingdom**

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the current draft of this document. We would like to thank the Secretariat for their work in reflecting member states views; we believe this takes us ever closer to reaching a consensus on this critically important issue. We look forward to continuing our engagement with all parties, **with a view to adopting the framework and associated policies at the 68<sup>th</sup> WHA** in May.

We have some specific comments in the attached document, but would also like to underline some general principles.

Firstly, as we have said previously, we believe that it is impossible for WHO to fulfil its convening role, if it is unable to engage with all actors who are able to contribute to the global health agenda. Engagement with non-state actors is, therefore, **a critical component of WHO's role in global health governance**. This is why we welcome the specific aspects of the document that set out the rationale and benefits of engagement and WHO's recognition of the need for that engagement.

Secondly, we believe it is vital that the policy be a platform for a proactive engagement with all actors that have a legitimate and positive role to play in advancing public health for all. So it should **enable more engagement, not less**, but with a clearer and more robust framework around that engagement. We feel it is important that the document fully captures that enabling spirit.

Thirdly, while we agree that there is a need, in some instances, for NSAs to be treated differently, we want to see a **focus on commonalities within the Framework**, with a clear rationale where

difference is necessary. In the current draft there remain a number of areas where the rationale for such differences is unclear, this will need to be resolved before we can move forward with a clear and shared understanding.

Fourthly, and more specifically, but illustrative of the principles set out above, we **cannot accept a prohibition on all secondments from NSAs**. We believe that this is disproportionate and not in the interests of the WHO or global health more generally. We would like to see provision made for beneficial secondments within the policy, accepting of course that there will need to be robust safeguards around that.

Finally, whilst we would like to thank the Secretariat for seeking to clarify the situation in respect of partnerships, we still have some concerns about how the relationship between the partnership policy and this framework and how they will work together in practice. We would therefore be grateful for further clarification on this aspect during forthcoming discussions.

**Her Majesty's Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

**London**

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