

**REGULATIONS FOR STUDY AND SCIENTIFIC GROUPS, COLLABORATING
INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER MECHANISMS OF COLLABORATION¹**

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3. WHO COLLABORATING CENTRES

Definition and Functions

3.1 A WHO collaborating centre is an institution designated by the Director-General to form part of an international collaborative network carrying out activities in support of the Organization's programme at all levels. A department or laboratory within an institution or a group of facilities for reference, research or training belonging to different institutions may be designated as a centre, one institution acting for them in relations with the Organization.

3.2 Institutions showing a growing capacity to fulfil a function or functions related to the Organization's programme, as well as institutions of high scientific and technical standing having attained international recognition, may qualify for designation as WHO collaborating centres.

3.3 The functions of WHO collaborating centres, severally or collectively, include the following:

- (a) collection, collation and dissemination of information;
- (b) standardization of terminology and nomenclature, of technology, of diagnostic, therapeutic and prophylactic substances, and of methods and procedures;
- (c) development and application of appropriate technology;
- (d) provision of reference substances and other services;
- (e) participation in collaborative research developed under the Organization's leadership, including the planning, conduct, monitoring and evaluation of research, as well as promotion of the application of the results of research;
- (f) training, including research training; and
- (g) the coordination of activities carried out by several institutions on a given subject.

3.4 A WHO collaborating centre participates on a contractual basis in cooperative programmes supported by the Organization at the country, intercountry, regional, interregional and global levels. It also contributes to increasing technical cooperation with and among countries by providing them with information, services and advice, and by stimulating and supporting research and training.

Designation

3.5 The criteria to be applied in the selection of institutions for designation as a WHO collaborating centre are as follows:

¹ Text approved by the Executive Board at its 69th session (resolution EB69.R21) with amendments approved at its 105th session (resolution EB105.R7).

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(a) the scientific and technical standing of the institution concerned at the national and international levels;

(b) the place the institution occupies in the country's health, scientific or educational structures;

(c) the quality of its scientific and technical leadership, and the number and qualifications of its staff;

(d) the institution's prospective stability in terms of personnel, activity and funding;

(e) the working relationship which the institution has developed with other institutions in the country, as well as at the intercountry, regional and global levels;

(f) the institution's ability, capacity and readiness to contribute to WHO programme activities, whether in support of country programmes or by participating in international cooperative activities.

(g) the technical and geographical relevance of the institution and its activities to WHO's programme priorities.

(h) the successful completion by the institution of at least two years of collaboration with WHO in carrying out jointly planned activities.

3.6 Regional Directors shall propose institutions for designation as WHO collaborating centres by the Director-General. They shall do so on the basis of preliminary exploration with the institutions and national authorities concerned and with the advice of and on suggestions from the Organization's programme officers responsible, at both global and regional level, for the programmes concerned.

3.7 Regional Directors shall provide the Director-General with appropriate information concerning:

(a) the programme requirements to which the prospective centre is expected to respond and the functions it will have to perform;

(b) the suitability of the institution concerned, on the basis of the criteria laid down in these regulations and by the Director-General; and

(c) the government's and institution's agreement to the proposed designation.

3.8 Designation shall be by agreement with the administrative head of the institution after consultation with the national authorities. The designation shall be signified to the institution and the national authorities by the Regional Director concerned.

3.9 After designation, an institution shall be known by the official title "WHO Collaborating Centre", followed by a concise indication of the sphere of activity covered.

3.10 WHO collaborating centres shall be designated for an initial period of four years. The designation is renewable for the same or shorter periods, if warranted by programme requirements and the results of evaluation.

Management

3.11 Collaboration with the centres shall be managed by relevant programme officers in that part of the Organization which initiated the designation process, whether at

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headquarters or in a region. Collaborating centres, however, shall maintain their technical links with all parts of the Organization relevant to their agreed programme of work.

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