Guidance on Development of Policy

Introduction

WFPHA has an important role in supporting the development of public health policy both globally and at a national level.

WFPHA participated with the NGO community at Alma Ata in endorsing the concept of broadly based primary health care; urged linking health with economic development strategies; raised awareness of the health consequences of landmines and nuclear weapons; engaged as an active NGO participant in the negotiations leading up to the passage of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; and, is committed to public health support to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

Background

The 2011 survey of national member organisations of WFPHA, in which the majority of member organisations participated, sought views as to what topics should form the agenda on which the Association should concentrate. The most important issue, as identified by 65% of responding organisations, was health policy development.

The WFPHA therefore is committed to strengthen its approach to policy development in order to ensure that its policy positions are coherent, appropriate and of benefit to global public health. The Association also wants to continue to respond in a timely fashion to major issues affecting population health and public health systems across the globe.
Process for adding to, adapting or updating WFPHA policy

Although the initiative for the development of policy should come, primarily, from national Member Associations, proposals for policy development may also come from formal Working Groups and Committees of the WFPHA. The WFPHA may also respond to requests to develop policy from the World Health Organisation and other international governmental organisations.

The Association’s key policy making forum is the annual General Assembly of the WFPHA held in Geneva to coincide with the World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization. This effectively determines the timescale for the development and consideration of policy resolutions. In order to facilitate discussion of a resolution ahead of the General Assembly, all resolutions must be in final form at least four weeks before the General Assembly so that they can be distributed for consideration by member organisations.

Guidance on the process for organisations interested in putting forward a resolution is contained in the Appendix. Resolutions have additional strength if they come forward with the support of a number of associations.

Implementation of policy resolutions

The WFPHA is committed to making progress on the policy positions to which it adopts. It is therefore important that resolutions when being formulated take into account the constraints on the WFPHA in respect of being able to devote time and resources to implementation.
Appendix

1) Member organisations considering submitting a policy resolution are encouraged to consult the list of current policy that constitutes the policy of WFPHA so that duplication or contradiction is avoided, or that resolutions are explicit in seeking to amend or supplement existing policy.

2) Resolutions must be submitted either in the name of a member organisation in good standing, and have a formal statement of support from that organisation, or from a committee or working group of the WFPHA in the name of the Chair of that group.

3) Member organisations are invited to send a draft of any proposed resolution to the Geneva Office of the WFPHA and to the Chair of the Policy Committee for advice by December by 31 of the year preceding the General Assembly when the proposed resolution will be considered.

4) A final draft of any proposed resolution will be circulated to members of the Policy Committee. Any comments from the Policy Committee will be forwarded to the member organisation leading on the development of the resolution.

5) The final version of the resolution will then go forward for consideration at the General Assembly and will be distributed in advance to member organisations.

6) The final resolution will be discussed in the meeting of the Policy Committee immediately before the General Assembly and the Committee may decide to advise the General Assembly in respect of resolutions.

7) At the General Assembly it is expected that the resolution will be proposed by the relevant member organisation or Chair of committee or working group.

8) Resolutions adopted will be published on the WFPHA website and added to the compendium of WFPHA policy positions.
9) The member organisation responsible for bringing forward a resolution adopted by the General Assembly will be expected to report on progress at the next General Assembly throughout each of the subsequent 3 years.

Approved by the GC, on June 1st 2012