Oral Health Working Group Bylaws

March 2013

"Oral health is a state of being free from chronic mouth and facial pain, oral and throat cancer, oral sores, birth defects such as cleft lip and palate, periodontal (gum) disease, tooth decay and tooth loss, and other diseases and disorders that affect the oral cavity. Risk factors for oral diseases include unhealthy diet, tobacco use, harmful alcohol use, and poor oral hygiene."

WHO definition

1. Purpose

To promote and integrate oral health, whenever appropriate, in all public health policies within the WFPHA and its member organizations

2. Chair and vice-Chair positions

2.1 The Chair should coordinate the OHWG in agreement with its members and promote the activities and goals of the WG. In addition, the Chair will be responsible for any fundraising activities, deemed necessary for the growth and development of the group.

2.2 The vice-Chairs (if present) should represent the OHWG and perform specific tasks if required by the Chair and furthermore replace the Chair in its absence.

2.3 The inaugural Chair, R. Bedi, will be in charge for the 1st mandate (up to the 14th World Congress of Public Health).

Every 3 years, during the World Congress of Public Health, the new Chair will be elected / reconfirmed. A Chair can remain in office for a maximum term of 6 years.

2.4 All members of the OHWG can propose themselves for the position of Chair (or vice-Chairs).

Candidates for these positions should send their candidature to ohwg@wfpha.org at least 3 months before the World Congress of Public Health (the required documentation being the Biography and Motivation letter). The elections (via email and during the Congress) will be coordinated by the Secretariat and all members of the OHWG will have the right to vote.

The new officer(s) will take up their office at the end of the World Congress of Public Health.

Once elected, the new Chair should define, in consultation with OHWG members, the work plan for the next 3 years.

3 Membership criteria

3.1 The OHWG is composed of 2 subgroups: the Executive Group (EG) and the Reference Group (RG).

3.2 The Executive Group consists of 3 people per WHO region (Chair and vice-Chair not included) plus six young professionals at most. Only one person per country can be a member of the EG (excluding the chair,
vice-Chairs and young professional group). Two EG members from the same country can be accepted if no other representatives from other countries of the same WHO region are available. The EG will lead the main activities of the OHWG group and participate in bimonthly teleconferences.

During the first mandate, the EG members have been selected by the Chair and vice-chairs for practical reasons. After 2015, and every 3 years subsequently, during the World Congress of Public Health, the EG members should be elected / reconfirmed. Candidates for these positions should send their candidature to ohwg@wfpha.org at least 3 months before the World Congress of Public Health (the required documentation being the Bionote and Motivation letter). The elections (via email and during the Congress) will be coordinated by the secretariat and all members of the OHWG will have the right to vote. An EG member can remain in office for a maximum term of 6 years.

Each OHWG member can apply for the posts of Chair and EG member at the same time.

3.3 The Reference Group is composed of health representatives nominated by their Public Health Association (PHA) or have been invited by the EG because of their expertise. The main task of RG members is to provide information on local/international oral health related initiatives to the EG and in addition disseminate the work of the OHWG locally. The RG members should participate in six monthly OHWG teleconferences.

The maximum number of oral health representatives or professionals per country within the RG is limited to 2 people. If more than 2 people per country want to join the RG, the Chairs and vice-Chairs will select the most appropriate candidate(s).

3.4 Young people will be considered as health representatives who have been in training or post training of (dental) public health in the last 5 years, with a maximum age of 35 years.

3.5 The country of the members (not nominated by the PHA Member of the WFPHA) is to be considered as the country where the member has spent the last 5 years, and does not correspond automatically to the home country. This rule does not apply for the young professional group.

3.6 Important stakeholders not belonging to WFPHA and who wish to join the OHWG will be considered for inclusion by the EG. Their membership to the Federation should be accomplished by the end of their first year of membership to the OHWG.

3.7 All members of the OHWG should inform their PHA member of the Federation of their role within the OHWG.

4.0 OHWG meeting

4.1 The EG of the OHWG will communicate bimonthly via a teleconference.
4.2 The RG will have teleconferences in January and September.

Approved by the OHWG – March 21st 2013