



Engagement with non-State actors: applications submitted by entities for accreditation to attend meetings of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean

1. This document provides an overview of applications from three non-State actors for accreditation to attend meetings of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean as observers. The Regional Committee is requested to review the applications and adopt the draft decision on this topic at its 72nd session in October 2025.

Background

2. Accreditation is a privilege that the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean may grant to regional nongovernmental organizations, international business associations and philanthropic foundations. It includes an invitation to participate, without the right to vote, in meetings of the Regional Committee and the possibility of submitting written and/or oral statements through the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean.

3. The procedure is in line with Article 57 of the WHO Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (adopted through resolution WHA69.10 of the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly) and was endorsed by the Regional Committee at its 67th session in October 2020 (see document EM/RC67/16 and resolution EM/RC67/R.5).

4. The Regional Committee reviews collaboration with each accredited non-State actor every three years and decides whether to maintain the accreditation status or defer the decision to the following year. Accredited entities must provide a report on collaboration with the WHO Regional Office through the Secretariat every three years, by the end of December of the relevant year.

5. Organizations that wish to be granted accreditation must follow the agreed [process and timeline](#), and must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- a. The aims and purposes of the applicant entity should be consistent with the WHO Constitution, conform with WHO's policies and contribute significantly to the advancement of public health.
- b. The entity should respect the intergovernmental nature of WHO and the decision-making authority of Member States, as set out in the WHO Constitution.
- c. The entity should have been in active and formal engagement with the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean for at least two years.
- d. Membership and activities of the entity should be at the regional level.
- e. The entity should not be a for-profit organization, nor should its nature or activities be commercial.
- f. The entity should have an established structure, constitutive act and accountability mechanisms.
- g. If the entity is a membership organization, it should have a representative structure and the authority to speak for its members.

- h. Entities shall designate a head of their delegation and declare the affiliations of their delegates. This declaration shall include the function of each delegate within the entity itself and, where applicable, the function of that delegate within any affiliated organization.
 - i. Entities participating in Regional Committee meetings, and committees and conferences convened under the Regional Committee's auspices, shall designate a head of delegation for each session.
6. All applications for accreditation must be submitted to the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean by email through the Governing Bodies mailbox.

Previous related Regional Committee documents

7. Procedure for accreditation of regional non-State actors not in official relations with WHO to attend meetings of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean ([EM/RC67/16](#)).

Process for 2025

8. To support the Programme Subcommittee of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean and the Regional Committee itself in fulfilling their mandates regarding accreditation, the Secretariat assessed applications for accreditation received from non-State actors in 2025 to ensure that all requirements had been fulfilled in accordance with the provisions of the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors. All accepted applicants submitted signed disclosure statements affirming that they had no affiliations with the tobacco or arms industries. The statement requires each entity to disclose whether, over the last four years, it or any predecessor organization has been part of the tobacco or arms industries, has engaged in activities aimed at supporting the interests of the tobacco industry, or has had any other association or relationship with the tobacco industry during that period.
9. Three non-State actors were found to have met the requirements, and the Programme Subcommittee of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean recommends their accreditation to attend meetings of the Regional Committee. These entities are listed below, with a summary for each available in Annex 1 of this document:
 - the Gulf Federation for Cancer Control (GFFCC)
 - the Eastern Mediterranean NCD Alliance
 - the Palestinian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (PAMRT).
10. Applications from the three entities were presented to the Programme Subcommittee at its 22nd meeting, on 24–25 February 2025. The Programme Subcommittee has agreed to the applications, pending the approval of the Regional Committee at its 72nd session in October 2025. The Regional Committee is hence invited to consider the draft decision included in Annex 2.

Annex 1

Summary of non-State actors that applied and met the criteria for accreditation

1. *Gulf Federation for Cancer Control (GFFCC)*

- Home territory: Kuwait.
- Regional/national entity: Regional.
- **Focus:** The GFFCC was established to unify and coordinate cancer prevention, research and treatment efforts across Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. It works collaboratively with health authorities, nongovernmental organizations and regional partners to address the growing burden of cancer in GCC countries through prevention and early detection strategies, improving patient care and strengthening cancer-related health services.

Key activities include:

- Public awareness and education: the GFFCC conducts awareness campaigns to educate the public about risk factors for cancer, prevention methods and the importance of early detection.
- Support for research: the GFFCC fosters cancer-related research in GCC countries, supporting studies that address regional needs and promote evidence-based interventions.
- Capacity-building: the GFFCC engages in training programmes for health care professionals to enhance cancer detection, diagnosis and treatment capabilities across GCC countries.
- Inter-country collaboration: through its partnerships with ministries of health and regional stakeholders, the GFFCC facilitates knowledge sharing, promotes standardized guidelines for cancer care and advocates for national policies to reduce cancer incidence and mortality rates.

2. *Eastern Mediterranean NCD Alliance*

- **Home territory:** Eastern Mediterranean Region.
- Regional/national entity: Regional.
- **Focus:** The Eastern Mediterranean NCD Alliance is a multistakeholder platform dedicated to addressing the growing epidemic of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. NCDs, including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory conditions and cancer, are the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in the Region, and the Alliance works to foster regional collaboration to combat them.

Key activities include:

- Advocacy and policy support: the Alliance engages policy-makers, civil society and international health organizations to advocate for robust NCD policies, improved health care systems and integrating NCD prevention into national health strategies.
- Awareness and capacity development: through public awareness campaigns, conferences and workshops, the Alliance raises awareness about NCD risk factors, such as tobacco use, unhealthy diets, physical inactivity and harmful alcohol consumption. It also works to strengthen regional capacities in prevention and treatment of NCDs.

- Supporting research and evidence-based action: the Alliance collaborates with academic institutions and public health agencies to support research into NCD trends, regional challenges and effective interventions, thereby fostering evidence-based decision-making.
- Fostering multisectoral collaboration: recognizing the multidimensional nature of NCDs, the Alliance brings together diverse stakeholders, including governments, nongovernmental organizations, health care providers and private sector partners, to promote integrated approaches to reducing the burden of NCDs.

3. *Palestinian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (PAMRT)*

- Home territory: Palestine.
- **Regional/national entity:** National, with regional collaboration.
- **Focus:** PAMRT is a professional organization committed to advancing the field of medical radiology and radiation technology in Palestine and contributing to regional efforts to improve health care service delivery. PAMRT was established to ensure the professional development of radiology technologists, improve the quality of medical imaging and radiation services, and promote patient safety.

Key activities include:

- Professional training and education: PAMRT organizes regular workshops, training sessions and certification programmes to enhance the technical skills and knowledge of radiology professionals, ensuring the use of modern practices and technologies.
- Advancing quality standards: PAMRT works to implement and maintain international quality and safety standards for medical radiation practices, aiming to improve diagnostic accuracy and patient care.
- Regional collaboration: PAMRT collaborates with regional and international organizations to exchange expertise, provide professional development opportunities and contribute to building a network of skilled radiology technologists in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.
- Promoting research and innovation: PAMRT supports research initiatives that focus on medical imaging advancements, radiation safety and addressing the unique challenges faced in low-resource settings such as Palestine.
- Advocacy for patient safety: PAMRT raises awareness about the importance of radiation safety for both patients and health care workers, advocating for policies that minimize risks and enhance health care outcomes.

Annex 2

Draft decision

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The Regional Committee,

1. Having examined the report on engagement with non-State actors: applications submitted by three entities for accreditation to attend meetings of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean;
2. DECIDES, in line with the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors, to grant accredited status to the following non-State actors for three years commencing 18 October 2025:
 - the Gulf Federation for Cancer Control (GFFCC)
 - the Eastern Mediterranean NCD Alliance
 - the Palestinian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (PAMRT).