
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

This document provides an overview of four non-State actors applications 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 71st session.

Background

1. 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 to submit written and/or oral statements through the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean.
2. The procedure is in line with Article 57 of the WHO Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (resolution WHA69.10) 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).
3. 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 on the review to the following year. Accredited entities must provide a report on collaboration with the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean through the Secretariat every three years, by the end of December of the relevant year.
4. Organizations that wish to be granted accreditation must follow the agreed [process and timeline](#) of the accreditation process, and must fit the following eligibility criteria:
 - a. The aims and purposes of the applicant entity should be consistent with the WHO Constitution and 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 and/or commercial in nature and/or its activities.
 - f. The entity should have an established structure, constitutive act and accountability mechanisms.
 - g. The entity, if a membership organization, should have the authority to speak for its members and have a representative structure.
 - 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.

5. 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

6. 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 2024

7. To support the Subcommittee of the Regional Committee for Eastern Mediterranean and the Regional Committee in fulfilling their mandates on accreditation, the Secretariat assessed applications for accreditation received from non-State actors in 2024 to ensure that all requirements had been fulfilled in accordance with the provisions of the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (FENSA). All accepted applicants provided signed tobacco- and arms-related disclosure statements.

8. Four non-State actors were found to have met the requirements, and the Subcommittee of the Regional Committee for 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 Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET)
- Hamdard Foundation Pakistan (HFP)
- Arab Hospitals Federation (AHF)
- Arab Council for Childhood and Development (ACCD)

9. If agreeable to the Regional Committee, they are hereby invited to consider the draft decision included in Annex 2 to accept such an accreditation process.

Annex 1. Summary of non-State actors that applied and met the criteria for accreditation

The Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET)

- **Country:** Jordan
- **National/regional entity:** Regional
- **Website:** <https://emphnet.net/>

10. Since its establishment, EMPHNET has collaborated with the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region and beyond to support public health efforts, focusing on building workforce capacities, strengthening programme planning and implementation, promoting evidence-based decision-making, and fostering communication and networking.

11. In 2009, EMPHNET was established as an umbrella organization for field epidemiology training programmes (FETPs) in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, with the purpose of connecting and supporting the FETPs. The epidemiological capacities of FETPs have proved essential, especially in the context of the complex public health profile of the Region.

12. In 2015, EMPHNET launched the Global Health Development initiative to meet the growing needs and requests coming from countries of the Region and as a means for leveraging health outcomes.

Hamdard Foundation Pakistan (HFP)

- **Country:** Pakistan
- **National/regional entity:** Regional
- **Website:** <https://www.hamdardfoundation.org/>

13. The Hamdard Foundation works to ensure the efficient and responsible delivery of humanitarian aid through the means and resources that have been entrusted to the entity. To fulfil this responsibility, the organization, along with those affiliated to it, commits to being accountable, transparent and compliant toward beneficiaries and communities, as well as towards donors, partners and stakeholders.

Arab Hospitals Federation (AHF)

- **Country:** Lebanon
- **National/regional entity:** Regional
- **Website:** <https://ahfonline.net/>

14. The Arab Hospitals Federation is an independent, non-political and non-profit organization that represents and serves public and private hospitals, medical centres, institutions, organizations and individuals directly connected with the provision of health care

15. AHF advocates on behalf of its members to influence health care policy and service delivery, ensuring that their perspectives and needs are heard and addressed in health policy development.

Arab Council for Childhood and Development (ACCD)

- **Country:** Egypt
- **National/regional entity:** Regional
- **Website:** <https://www.arabccd.org/en/>

16. ACCD is an organization concerned with the upbringing and development of Arab children. It seeks to guarantee their rights, develop their awareness and help them to use their reason and intellect, enabling them to react positively to future challenges.

17. ACCD works to develop an enlightened educational model, create enabling environments and build children's capacities for rational critical thinking and creativity. By providing opportunities for continuous development and the acquisition of modern skills, the organization aims to ensure children's participation in building knowledge societies for the future.

Annex 2. Draft decision

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

The Regional Committee,

18. Having examined the report on engagement with non-State actors: 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;¹

19. 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 17 October 2024:

- The Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET)
- Hamdard Foundation Pakistan (HFP)
- Arab Hospitals Federation (AHF)
- Arab Council for Childhood and Development (ACCD)

¹ EM/RC71/15.