

Pan Pacific Safe Community Network (PPSCN) and World Health Organization (WHO)

PPSCN supports the objectives and vision of the WHO and actively works to address the leadership priority of the WHO Twelfth General Programme of Work, ‘*reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases and mental health, violence and injuries and disabilities*’. WHO views the Safe Communities approach as an important means of delivering evidence-based violence and injury prevention strategies at the local level. In 2014 the PPSCN began pursuing official relations with the WHO, and has established work on specific projects to advance mutual goals to develop sustainable, equitable, and transferable violence and injury prevention models at the community level. This is occurring with the promotion of policies, strategies and programmes that address the burden of injury through the adoption of the Safe Community model and maximizing the impact of the delivery to reduce both the levels of injuries (intentional and unintentional) and the impacts such injuries have on their communities. The Western Pacific Regional Office [Regional Action Plan for Violence and Injury Prevention](#), identifies the need for effective coordination and collaboration, and references the Safe Communities model, and PPSCN. *Please note that accreditation as a Safe Community **must never be** referred to as WHO accreditation or being designated by WHO.*

Principles Governing Relations between the World Health Organization and Non-Governmental Organizations <http://apps.who.int/gb/bd/PDF/bd47/EN/principles-governing-rela-en.pdf>

The objectives of WHO's collaboration with NGOs are to promote the policies, strategies and programmes derived from the decisions of the Organization's governing bodies; to collaborate with regard to various WHO programmes in jointly agreed activities to implement these strategies; and to play an appropriate role in ensuring the harmonizing of intersectoral interests among the various sectoral bodies concerned in a country, regional or global setting.

2. Types of relations at the global level and their development

- I. WHO recognizes only one category of formal relations, known as official relations, with those NGOs which meet the criteria described in these Principles. All other contacts, including working relations, are considered to be of an informal character.
- II. The establishment of relations with NGOs shall be an evolving process proceeding through a number of separate stages as described in the following paragraphs.
- III. First contacts with an NGO in order to create mutual understanding and assist in developing mutual interests frequently take the form of exchanges of information and reciprocal participation in technical meetings. This type of informal contact may continue on an ad hoc basis, without time limit and without written agreement. However, the definition of the broad objectives of collaboration and the possibility of enlarging its scope to include specific joint activities in line with the particular expertise of the non-governmental organization are also explored at this stage.
- IV. When a number of specific joint activities have been identified, collaboration may be taken a stage further by proceeding to a period (usually two years) of working relations entered into by an exchange of letters. Such letters set out the agreed basis for the collaboration, indicating details of the activities to be undertaken during the period, providing an estimate of the resources to be supplied by WHO and the NGO, and naming focal points in the NGO and in WHO (designated technical officer). A joint assessment of the outcome of the collaboration thus planned is undertaken at the end of the period of working relations by the parties concerned, including also consideration of the future relationship. This may result: in the continuation of the working relations for a further period; in an application for admission into official relations with WHO from an international NGO, for examination by the Executive Board, should there be a number of activities which might form the basis of a long-term and closer relationship with WHO; or in a decision that there is no scope for further contacts in the foreseeable future. This arrangement for consultation and cooperation with NGOs is considered as informal.
- V. The Executive Board shall be responsible for deciding on the admission of NGOs into official relations with WHO.

As of May 2016, there are 206 NGOs in official relations.

In 2015, the inventory undertaken of WHO informal relations with NGOs was estimated to be 8500.

¹ Text adopted by the Fortieth World Health Assembly (resolution WHA40.25), in replacement of the Principles adopted by the First and Third World Health Assemblies.