

A Plea to Reform and Finance the World Health Organization Sufficiently

The physician organizations signing this statement appeal to all nations to sufficiently finance the World Health Organization in order for it to be able to do its work as the health agency of the United Nations. Withholding funds to the WHO at the time of a pandemic is neither helpful nor safe.

We acknowledge the work of the WHO and its leadership as a technical agency for providing guidance, coordination and support for public health, and we underline its efforts to bring Universal Health Coverage to all people. This is even more crucial in times of a pandemic.

However, we also appeal to all, and foremost to democratic governments, to reject any political abuse or undue influence by governments or any other parties in the execution of the International Health Regulations and the technical work of the WHO. We also urge the WHO to resist any undue political influence and to concentrate on its health and scientific mission.

This requires constant vigilance against such abuse and the swift rejection of any attempts to exclude or prioritise individual territories in the work of the health agency. The health of all humans requires permanent protection and vigilance against such behaviour. Structural reform of the WHO to ensure its independence from political or ideological assaults is therefore direly needed.

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Dr Osahon Enabulele (Coordinator)
CANMA - Coalition of African
National Medical Associations



Dr KK Aggarwal, President
CMAAO - Confederation of Medical
Associations of Asia and Oceania



Dr Lincoln Lopes Ferrera, President
CONFEMEL - Confederación
Latinoiberoamericana de Médicos



COMITÉ PERMANENT DES MÉDECINS EUROPÉENS
STANDING COMMITTEE OF EUROPEAN DOCTORS

Dr Frank Ulrich Montgomery, President
CPME - Standing Committee of European Doctors



Dr Ravindra Wankhedkar, President
SAARC (South Asian Association
for Regional Cooperation) Medical Association



Dr Miguel Jorge, President
WMA – World Medical Association