Statement Concerning the United States Government’s Decision to Terminate Relations with the World Health Organization (WHO)

We, the undersigned organisations, note with grave concern the United States Government’s decision to terminate relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) in the midst of a global pandemic.

WHO is the only organization with the global mandate to coordinate the public health response to COVID-19 during this perilous time.

WHO plays a vital role in supporting countries to protect their citizens from public health threats, through coordination, developing vaccines, treatments and tests, training of health workers, and securing critical supplies particularly in humanitarian settings. This is as true for the current COVID-19 pandemic as it is for the many other health issues which continue to affect people throughout the world.

Challenging WHO’s mandate in these difficult times will cost lives. The current pandemic affects every one of us, and does not respect borders. No one is safe until everyone is safe. The only way to end the pandemic is to bring us closer together.

At this critical moment in the global response, we call for collaboration, constructive criticism and redoubling our efforts to fight this disease. We welcome Resolution WHA73.1 from the recent World Health Assembly, and in particular the call for an impartial, independent and comprehensive evaluation of WHO’s response to COVID-19. Equally, we encourage all governments to evaluate their national responses to the epidemic.

Amidst the horror that the pandemic brings is a chance, through partnership and multilateralism, to create a world that is better than the one we had before; a world more equitable and able to serve the health needs of all people.

In September 2019, at the UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage, world leaders endorsed the most ambitious and comprehensive political declaration on health in history and committed to providing the opportunity for health to every person by 2030. It is now time that those world leaders back up their words with meaningful action.

Organizations

3rd Sector Support Africa
ACON
Action for Global Health
African Network of Adolescents and Young Persons Development (ANAYD)
Afrihealth Optonet Association
AIHMS-Global

Alliance Myanmar
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Jewish World Service
American Public Health Association (APHA)
American Society for Clinical Pathology
American Society for Microbiology
American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene
Americas TB Coalition
Amref Health Africa UK
APCASO
APCOM
Asociacion de Mujeres Gente Nueva (AMUGEN)
Associação Coalizão da Juventude Moçambicana
Association d'assistance au Développement
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association for Promotion Sustainable Development
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations
AWTAD Anti-Corruption Organization
Balanced Stewardship Development Association (BALSDA)
BHORE
Blood Patients Protection Council
Bolivian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS
Bread for the World
BURKINABE OBSERVATORY FOR HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY
Caribbean Vulnerable Communities
Global Focus on Cancer
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Reproductive Rights
Centre for Community-Driven Research
Centre for Sustainable Access to Health in Africa
CERAMES
CHEN - patient fertility association – Israel
Children and Young People Living for Peace (CYPLP)
Christian Aid
Church World Service
Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (CSEM) of UHC2030
Civil Society Scaling up Nutrition in Nigeria (CS-SUNN)
Collectif pour le droit à la santé au maroc
Commonwealth Medical Trust (Commat)
Community Health Promotion and Sustenance Initiative
Consortium for the Advancement of Right for Key Affected Population (CARKAP)
CORE Group
Corporacion Kimirina
Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO)
Development Associates LLC
Dr. Uzo Adirieje Foundation (DUZAFOUND)
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Engineering Association for Development and Environment
ENHANCE CHILDREN AND WOMEN OF TANZANIA (ECWOT).
ETR
European Coalition of Positive People
Every Mother Counts
Faiths for Safe Water
Federation of American Scientists
FIA Foundation
FMAIRTO
Food for the Hungry
Foundation for African Research and Development (FARD)
Foundation for Integrated Rural Development (FIRD)
Foundation for Sustainable Health Promotion and Development (FOSHPAD)
Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
Frontline AIDS
Fund for Global Health
Fundación Ecuatoriana Equidad
Fundacion Huesped
GAVI CSO Constituency
GBCHealth
Global Focus on Cancer
Global Health Council
Global Health Technologies Coalition
Global Network of Sex Worker Projects (NSWP)
Global Water 2020
God Bless the Child e.V.
GRACE CENTER DRC
Greater Accra
Haiti Cholera Research Funding Foundation, Inc. (USA)
Harare
Harm Reduction International
Health Alliance International
Health Economists Association Armenia
Health Education Literacy Programme-HELP
Health Poverty Action
Health Professionals for Global Health, UK
Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
Healthcommunicators Nigeria
Helen Keller International
HIV Medicine Association
Hope for Future Generations
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Instituto para el Desarrollo Humano – Bolivia
International Women's Health Coalition
InterSurgeon
IntraHealth International
Ipas
Jordan Library and Information and Association
LAC Key Correspondent Team
Lactation Lighthouse
Latin American and Caribbean Women’s Health Network (LACWHN)
League of Women Voters of the United States
Let There Be Light International
Living Goods
Making Waves Network
Malaria No More
Malawi Health Equity Network
Mandioversa
Marie Stopes International
Mecanismo Social de Apoyo y Control de Colombia (MSCAV)
Medibeth Global Health Centre
Medical IMPACT
MEMISA
Meningitis Research Foundation
Neonatal Nurses Association of South Africa
Nephak
New Life Organisation
Nothing But Nets
Obatunde Oladapo, PLAN Health Advocacy and Development Foundation
ONG ODI NIGER (Organisation pour le Développement Inclusif au Niger)
Options Consultancy
Organisation For Health in Sustainable Development (OHISD)
Oxfam America
PAI
Pandemic Action Network
PATH
Pathfinder International
People living with HIV/AIDS (PLAS) – Lyantonde
People's Health Movement Tanzania (PHM Tanzania)
Personal Connected Health Alliance (PCHAlliance)
Planet Aid
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Institute
Positive Women Inc. (New Zealand)
Positively UK
Program in Global Surgery and Social Change at Harvard Medical School
Réseau Accès aux Médicaments Essentiels (RAME)
RESULTS
ReSurge International
Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
Safe Surgery Initiative
Salamander Trust
Sangram
Save the Children
SCI Foundation (UK)
SERAC-Bangladesh
Smile Train
Solidarity Bridge
Speak Up Africa
Stanfort Mary Foundation
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Akinpelu Olayemi Tosin
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