



**IAPO Intervention: 4.13, WHO's Engagement with Non-state Actors**  
**53<sup>rd</sup> Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization and the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the**  
**Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas**

Thank you Chair,

Honourable members of the Assembly, distinguished delegates.

The International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO) is an alliance of patient groups that represents the interests of patients worldwide. We are comprised of almost 250 member organizations based in more than 65 countries, representing an estimated 365 million patients with 60 different diseases and conditions.

IAPO supports activities to strengthen WHO engagement with non-state actors and improve transparency and accountability, and is interested in progress on the Framework of Engagement with non-state actors since the World Health Assembly and WHO Executive Board.

We fully agree that non-state actors play a major role in all aspects of global health and welcome WHO's assertion that non-state actors play an essential role in helping WHO fulfil its mandate of health for all. All healthcare policies that change services have an impact on users of the services – patients - and they therefore have the right to be involved in all healthcare decision-making.

We continue to assert the fundamental importance of an understanding of and respect for the added value that NGOs bring to collaborations with WHO being at the heart of the framework. It is important for WHO to ensure the legitimacy and credibility of the non-state actors it engages with. The framework needs to provide consistent and appropriate criteria for and methods of effective engagement by the full range of non- state actors.

All eligible non-state actors must have the opportunity to participate in WHO activities equally and without prejudice. The publishing of details of WHO's engagement with non-state actors, including clear and well-organised and disseminated timelines and papers for consultations, events and meetings will facilitate effective participation by ensuring access to all documents and sufficient time to respond.

IAPO looks forward to continuing to working closely with WHO and all stakeholders in achieving health for all.

Thank you for your attention.