

IAPO Regional Strategy 2010-2014



In order to further our work to increase global participation in patient-centred healthcare and build the capacity of patients' organizations around the world to be effective advocates for patient-centred healthcare, IAPO has developed a Regional Strategy which was agreed by the IAPO Governing Board in October 2010.

IAPO Regional Strategy Purpose and Context

The overall purpose of the Regional Strategy is to set in place a clear plan with tangible aims and goals that will guide IAPO's approach to activities and outreach to patient groups in the seven IAPO world regions.

IAPO has in the last few years increased its global reach. IAPO counts within its membership over 200 patient groups from all world regions and over 50 countries. These patient groups engage in a variety of ways with IAPO's governance and activities. IAPO has held two Regional Meetings: the first in Uganda, Africa in 2008 and the second in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2009. This Regional Strategy provides a strategic and structured framework to build on this work.

IAPO divides the world into seven regions based on the six regions of the World Health Organization, with the exception of the Americas, which we have split between North America (USA and Canada) and Latin America and the Caribbean. The seven IAPO world regions are: Africa, Europe, Eastern Mediterranean, South East Asia, Western Pacific, North America and Latin America and the Caribbean.

IAPO will work in these regions to address issues which patients and patients' organizations face, including: access to treatment and care; lack of meaningful patient involvement in health policy decision-making; patient safety and the need for good quality health communication and information.

IAPO is conscious of the global disparity in access to healthcare and will aim to work with local IAPO Members in an appropriate and context specific way. IAPO's work is informed by stark differences between the developed and the developing world. We will aim to increase global understanding of the very different realities that different regions face when accessing healthcare, yet encourage recognition of the shared purpose that unites groups despite this. We will strive to ensure relevance for developing countries, and focus increased resources to enable IAPO Members from these areas to be actively involved in IAPO's work.

The IAPO Regional Strategy will support IAPO's vision and mission, IAPO's Strategic Plan 2010-2014 and IAPO's annual priorities. Regional work is a key part of IAPO's 2010-2014 Strategic Plan and is relevant to all four strategic objectives of: 1. Engagement; 2. Voice; 3. Member-led and 4. Sustainability.

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Vision

The vision for the Regional Strategy is to increase global participation in patient-centred healthcare and build the capacity of patients' organizations around the world to be effective advocates for patient-centred healthcare.

Objectives

The main objectives of this work are as outlined in IAPO's Strategic Objective 2: Voice which is that: The global patients' voice will be strengthened; ensuring it accurately reflects the diverse needs and experiences of patients globally and is well communicated by:

- a) Developing the capacity of patients' organizations globally
- b) Supporting the development of active and empowered networks of patients' organizations (within world regions and globally)
- c) Enabling patients globally to develop and communicate a strong unified voice on shared agendas

Guiding principles

IAPO will:

- be led by the needs of those regions as defined by IAPO's Governing Board Members and Members in those regions
- provide different levels and types of support to different world regions and consider how IAPO's work complements (but does not replicate) the work of national and regional patient groups
- act primarily as a facilitator and coordinator supporting the leading role/s taken by IAPO's Governing Board and/or Members
- dedicate a small budget (£6,500) for the Regional Strategy which can be used to carry out agreed activities on regional priorities
- aim to identify areas where specific projects could be developed for funding of regional activities
- develop a strategy that includes some fixed priorities and activities but is also open to reacting to new unforeseen opportunities
- actively seek opportunities to integrate with regional events and programmes
- work to provide services to support Member's activities on a national level