

## WHS Academic Alliance Statutes

### Aims, Membership, Structure and Governance

Members of the WHS Academic Alliance agree to abide by the statutes of membership, and to collaborate closely to harness the shared goal of improving Global Health. The WHS Academic Alliance aims to strengthen collaboration and open dialogue, guided by science, to foster Global Health as a key political issue by promoting the Global Health debate in the spirit of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The WHS Academic Alliance promotes Health as a human right, emphasizing good governance, to ensure political decisions positively affect human health.

Health and personal well-being are of the highest importance, not only for the individual, but also for society as a whole. Much has been achieved by the medical advances of the last century. Whilst recent discoveries promise to bear the potential for even greater improvements in healthcare, new challenges for the standard of health and wellbeing worldwide arise. The rising cost of healthcare, together with demographic changes, require a conscious effort to improve medicine, whilst keeping it affordable. Health is a basic human right; it has to be ensured that it is delivered everywhere.

Only a global effort can succeed in tackling this global challenge. The WHS Academic Alliance, an Alliance of excellence, is an international network of prestigious medical and public health faculties, healthcare providers, academic organizations, and international associations to further this process. Together, it aims to ensure that health and life sciences are firmly established on the political and social agenda.

These statutes shall serve as the parent document for activity and cooperation of the WHS Academic Alliance. Individual activities under this umbrella require separate agreements to be approved and signed by the parties involved.

Any member institution of the WHS Academic Alliance can suggest additional agreements or clauses. With a two thirds majority approval of all member institutions present at the WHS Academic Alliance Assembly, such agreements or clauses become binding annexes to these Statutes. At the time of the installment of these statutes, the “WHS Academic Alliance Member Recruitment Policy and Procedures” and the “WHS Academic Alliance Coordination Fees” are official annexes.

## (1) Membership

### Types of membership

There are two types of membership of the WHS Academic Alliance

- i. Institutional Membership
  - WHS Academic Alliance Member Institutions must be academic institutions (e.g. universities, academies), medical or public/global health schools, institutes or similar entities, or academic healthcare providers.
  - WHS Academic Alliance Member Institutions have the full rights and duties as detailed in the chapter 'b'.
- ii. Organizational membership
  - The WHS Academic Alliance offers membership to umbrella organizations and associations which have as their members academic institutions and schools as well as national or international academic associations.
  - For organizational WHS Academic Alliance members, only the respective organization itself has membership rights as detailed in the chapter 'b' and carries a single vote.
  - Members of organizational WHS Academic Alliance members can and should apply for an individual institutional WHS Academic Alliance membership, if they want to participate directly in activities of the WHS Academic Alliance and the WHS.

### a. Rights and Duties of Member Institutions and Organizations

- i. WHS Academic Alliance Member Institutions will support the aims, impact, standing and visibility of the World Health Summit (WHS) and the WHS Academic Alliance.
- ii. WHS Academic Alliance Member Institutions have the right to nominate 2 delegates ("WHS Academic Alliance Delegates") including a Head of Delegation to participate in the WHS Academic Alliance Assembly, and in all digital decisions of the WHS Academic Alliance. The Head of Delegation carries the vote for the respective institution, has the responsibility to liaise with other WHS Academic Alliance institutions and the WHS Academic Alliance Secretariat. The Institutions are urged to consider an appropriate gender balance in the composition of their delegation.
- iii. WHS Academic Alliance Member Institutions have the right to nominate members for the WHS Academic Alliance Executive Committee.
- iv. WHS Academic Alliance Member Institutions have the right to suggest topics, formats and speakers for the World Health Summit and the WHS Regional Meetings.
- v. WHS Academic Alliance Member Institutions have the right to apply to organize WHS Regional Meetings or Expert Meetings. The framework for the organization of WHS Regional Meetings or Expert Meetings is given in *the "Rules for WHS Regional Meetings and Expert Meetings"* document.
- vi. WHS Academic Alliance Member Institutions have the right to suggest additional activities and initiatives of the WHS Academic Alliance and to participate in such activities.
- vii. WHS Academic Alliance Member Institutions will adhere to the general guidelines with respect to the presentation, communication and corporate design of the WHS and the

WHS Academic Alliance as described in in the *“WHS / WHS Academic Alliance corporate design guidelines”* document.

- viii. WHS Academic Alliance Member Institutions are entitled and encouraged to use the WHS Academic Alliance name and logo in publications, marketing activities, and in correspondence that are consistent with the mission of the Alliance.
- ix. For WHS Academic Alliance Delegates plus accompanying representatives (up to 5 persons per Alliance Member Institution), registration fees at the World Health Summit Meetings will be waived (travel costs have to be covered by all member institutions themselves). Similar schemes are applied at WHS Regional Meetings according to the available budget.
- x. WHS Academic Alliance Member Institutions will be assisted by the WHS Academic Alliance Secretariat with accommodation arrangements during the World Health Summit and the WHS Regional Meeting. For the Heads of Delegation and a maximum of two additional delegates per member institution and a maximum of 3 nights free accommodation at the respective location is covered by the WHS Foundation GmbH, the legal entity supporting the WHS.
- xi. WHS Academic Alliance Member Institutions are obliged to pay coordination fees according to the actual fee scheme given in the *“WHS Academic Alliance Coordination Fees”* document. The coordination fee scheme is proposed by the WHS Foundation to the Executive Committee and approved by the WHS Academic Alliance Assembly.

#### **b. Recruitment of Member Institutions or Organizations**

The WHS Academic Alliance is committed to expand its membership with the aim to safeguard

- i. A broad and fair regional representation of Member Institutions or Organizations.
- ii. A high academic quality of Member Institutions or Organizations.
- iii. Adherence to the overall aims and values of the WHS Academic Alliance.

The details of the recruitment procedures and the criteria for the evaluation of applying institutions are given in the *“WHS Academic Alliance Member Recruitment Policy and Procedures”* and the *“WHS Academic Alliance Member Recruitment Template”* document.

#### **c. Maintenance of Membership**

- i. The WHS Academic Alliance Member Institutions or Organizations are expected to participate in the different activities of the alliance. This includes the WHS meetings in Berlin and the regional meetings as well as additional WHS Academic Alliance initiatives outside the meetings.
- ii. The WHS Academic Alliance Member Institutions or Organizations are expected to internally deliberate their strategy with respect to global health and their rationale to be a member of the Alliance. Every three years they shall provide the WHS Academic Alliance Secretariat with a letter (‘refreshment letter’) stating the continuing commitment of the institution to maintain membership and defining the WHS Academic Alliance contact persons and delegation signed by a leadership representative of the legal institution (e.g. the University).

**d. Termination of Membership**

- i. WHS Academic Alliance Members can terminate their WHS Academic Alliance Membership at any time by written notice to the WHS Academic Alliance Secretariat. No refund of coordination fees will be given.
- ii. Member Institutions or Organizations which
  - fail to pay their coordination fees (see b.xii.) until the end of a given calendar year
  - show no activity (see c.i.) for two successive years
  - fail to send the 'refreshment letter' (see c.ii.)

will be contacted by the WHS Academic Alliance Secretariat at the WHS Foundation and asked to resolve the respective issues. If the financial obligation has not been met after 1 year, the institution will be provided a formal notice to respond, pay or request an exception; if there has been no response or resolution then the ExCo will review and vote on continuing membership of the institution or Organization in the WHS Academic Alliance.

- iii. Exceptions from the obligation to pay coordination fees can only be granted by the WHS Academic Alliance Executive Committee or the Assembly in alignment with the WHS Foundation based on a plausible explanation of the respective member.

**e. WHS Academic Alliance Promoter / Friend Status**

- i. For individual persons with a special relation to the WHS Academic Alliance, the Promoter /Friend status can be offered. Eligible persons must have a strong relation to activities of the WHS Academic Alliance, a proven record of personal commitment to public and global health development and at least two sponsors among the WHS Academic Alliance member institutions.
- ii. Decisions about WHS Academic Alliance Promotor status are taken by the ExCo.
- iii. Promotors have no voting rights at the WHS Academic Alliance Assembly but can be elected to the Executive Committee and may attend the Assembly as guests. Their registration fees for the World Health Summit and the WHS Regional Meeting will be waived and they receive assistance with accommodation arrangements at the discretion of the respective organizers.

## (2) Structure and Governance

### **2.1. The WHS Academic Alliance Assembly**

The purpose of the WHS Academic Alliance Assembly is to discuss and decide on strategic matters concerning the WHS Academic Alliance, including conference, development, membership, structure, collaboration, partnerships, joint projects and administrative framework.

#### **a. Constitution of the WHS Academic Alliance Assembly and voting**

- i. The WHS Academic Alliance Assembly consists of the Heads of Delegation nominated by each member institution or organization who exert the voting right for their Member Institution. Each Member Institution or Organization has one vote.
- ii. the WHS Academic Alliance Assembly can be attended by
  - one additional delegate from each WHS Academic Alliance Member Institution,
  - members of the WHS Academic Alliance Secretariat and the WHS Foundation GmbH, upon invitation by the President of the WHS or the ExCo,
  - Guests of the Executive Committee or the WHS president.
- iii. The WHS Academic Alliance Assembly is chaired by the President of the WHS who together with the ExCo and the WHS Academic Alliance Secretariat also develops the agenda and provides the necessary information and documents to all members in advance of the meeting.
- iv. The WHS Academic Alliance Assembly usually meets twice each year, i.e., during or around the World Health Summit in Berlin and the WHS Regional Meeting.
- v. Meetings of the WHS Academic Alliance Assembly can be held as in person only meetings, as hybrid meetings or as videoconferencing meetings.
- vi. In case of urgency, the WHS Academic Alliance Assembly can decide individual items by remote electronic vote, e.g. via e-mail. The electronic voting procedure is organized by the WHS Academic Alliance Secretariat and the WHS President.
- vii. The WHS Academic Alliance Assembly achieves quorum if at least 50% plus one of the number of WHS Academic Member Institutions are present with their respective Heads of Delegation. Decisions are taken by a simple majority vote.
- viii. If two members of the WHS Academic Assembly consider a resolution on a given topic of critical importance, they can request a decision with a two-thirds majority. This appeal is decided upon by majority vote.

#### **b. Tasks of the WHS Academic Alliance Assembly**

- i. Vote on issues prepared and presented by the Executive Committee, including questions on the acceptance of new member institutions and changes to the WHS Academic Alliance statutes and other documents of the WHS Academic Alliance.
- ii. Elect members of the WHS Academic Alliance Executive Committee.
- iii. Discuss proposals for the development of the WHS conferences, including program formats, topics, sessions, or strategic or financial partners.

- iv. Communicate the results of the World Health Summit in Berlin and WHS Regional Meetings amongst its networks.
- v. Involve their own networks and home institutions in order to raise awareness of and attendance at WHS conferences.
- vi. Discuss and develop potential joint projects of the WHS Academic Alliance and the WHS conferences with their home institutions and give scientific and strategic input.

## **2.2. The WHS Academic Alliance Executive Committee (ExCo)**

The Executive Committee acts as the operative body of the WHS Academic Alliance. It works closely with the WHS Academic Alliance Secretariat and is involved in all activities of the WHS Academic Alliance.

### **a. Members of the Executive Committee and voting procedure**

- i. The Executive Committee (ExCo) consists of 9-11 members:
  - a. The WHS President, who serves as the chairperson of the ExCo (ex officio).
  - b. The past, incoming, and current international presidents (ex officio).
  - c. Five to seven delegates elected from and by the members of the WHS Academic Alliance, with each delegate serving a three-year term. Reappointment is possible.
- ii. Delegates are elected through an official voting process overseen by the nominating committee of the Alliance.
- iii. The nominating committee consists of: The WHS President and CEO; Present, past and incoming WHS Regional Presidents; 3 most recent WHS Regional Presidents of the preceding years – excluding past Presidents who are applying for membership in the ExCo. In total it includes 8 members. The WHS President has a casting vote.
- iv. Members of the WHS Academic Alliance Assembly can apply for ExCo membership by submitting a brief statement of intent (max 3 pages). Candidates can also be nominated by other members of the WHS Academic Alliance.
- v. The nominating committee receives the applications and prepares ballot lists which ensure an overall size of the ExCo of 9 or 11 members, an optimal composition of the ExCo with respect to competencies and expertise, as well as diversity in areas such as gender, experience in the Alliance, and geographic region.
- vi. A formal voting procedure is held among the Assembly members with one vote per institution.
- vii. The ExCo has the authority to nominate up to three representatives from key stakeholder groups, including experts, advisors, or partners of the WHS Academic Alliance. Representatives hold no voting rights in the ExCo, their tenure is defined by the ExCo.
- viii. The members of the ExCo can assign individual portfolios and responsibilities to its individual members.
- ix. Decisions are taken by a majority of votes.
- x. If a member of the ExCo considers the resolution on a given of critical importance by, he or she can request a decision with a two-thirds majority. This appeal is decided upon by majority vote.

- xi. In case of urgency, the ExCo can decide individual items by remote electronic vote, e.g. via e-mail. The electronic voting procedure is organized by the WHS Academic Alliance Secretariat and the WHS President.

**b. Ex Officio Guests of the Executive Committee**

- i. The CEO of the WHS Foundation GmbH.
- ii. The program director who is responsible for the interaction of the WHS Academic Alliance and its members with the program development.
- iii. The strategic engagement director of the WHS who is responsible for WHS Academic Alliance activities outside the WHS Summit and the WHS Regional Meeting.
- iv. Representatives of the WHS teams and/or the WHS Academic Alliance Secretariat.
- v. The Dean of the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin as the WHS host institution.
- vi. The ExCo can additionally appoint *advisors* outside its membership to assume operative responsibility in selected fields of the Committee's work. Upon invitation, they can participate in ExCo meetings as guests.

**c. Meetings of the Executive Committee**

- i. The regular meeting frequency for the ExCo is one meeting per month. Meetings will generally be held virtually through videoconferencing or conference calls.
- ii. The agenda is prepared by the WHS Academic Alliance Secretariat with the WHS President.
- iii. Additional meetings can be organized at the request of ExCo members and Advisors.
- iv. The meeting will take place in a timeslot accepted by the highest number of ExCo Members.
- v. No remuneration will be paid for membership of the ExCo. Possible expenses due to particular actions agreed upon by the ExCo may be covered at the discretion of the WHS Foundation GmbH.

**d. Areas of responsibility for the Executive Committee include**

- i. Initiating WHS Academic Alliance strategic development, including rules and regulations, membership and activities,
- ii. Focus and content of WHS Summits and Regional Meetings,
- iii. Strategic Co-operations and stakeholder liaison,
- iv. Oversight and support of joint projects of WHS Academic Alliance Member Institutions,
- v. Initiation and approval of WHS Academic Alliance publications,
- vi. Monitoring outcomes of activities of the WHS Academic Alliance and the WHS.

**2.3. WHS Academic Alliance Secretariat**

The WHS Academic Alliance Secretariat is hosted by WHS Foundation GmbH in Berlin, Germany, a 100% subsidiary of the WHS Academic Alliance founding member Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. WHS Foundation GmbH organizes the World Health Summit and handles all financial and administrative matters with respect to the WHS and the WHS Academic Alliance and as such receives the coordination fees from the Member Institutions. The WHS Academic Alliance Secretariat supports the WHS Academic Alliance with respect to the meetings of the Assembly and the ExCo as well as all WHS Academic Alliance activities.

### (3) Activities

The WHS Academic Alliance is the academic backbone of the WHS.

#### a. Areas for Activities

The WHS Academic Alliance can initiate, pursue and contribute to activities outside the World Health Summit in Berlin and the WHS Regional Meetings. Such activities include - among others -

- i. Networking opportunities for researchers/staff or students,
- ii. Exchange programs for researchers/staff or students,
- iii. Support of young scientists,
- iv. Teaching, education, webinars,
- v. Research collaboration,
- vi. Science-based policy advice, i.e., white papers, policy briefs,
- vii. Academic publications,
- viii. Promotion of global health issues.

#### b. Process

- i. Proposals for Activities can come from WHS Academic Alliance members the WHS President or members of the WHS Academic Secretariat and the WHS Foundation GmbH.
- ii. Proposals are presented to the ExCo and evaluated with respect to fit to the mission of the WHS Academic Alliance, the rationale, the impact, and the feasibility.
- iii. Upon a positive evaluation of the above criteria, a project draft is developed according to the project mode envisaged.

#### c. Project modes

Depending on the nature of the initiative and the planned role of different partners, different project modes can be used.

- i. Endorsement
  - The proposing member institution (project lead) is the central driving force for the initiative and is willing to take the full responsibility with respect to logistics and costs.
  - The WHS Academic Alliance supports the initiative by allowing to advertise it under the WHS Academic Alliance name and logo. In addition, the WHS Academic Alliance Secretariat will make the central WHS channels available for interaction with the global health community.
- ii. Participation

- The proposing member institution (project lead) is the central driving force for the initiative and is willing to take the full responsibility with respect to logistics and costs.
  - The WHS Academic Alliance supports the initiative by allowing to advertise it under the WHS Academic Alliance name and logo. In addition, the WHS Academic Alliance Secretariat will make the central WHS channels available for interaction with the global health community.
  - The project lead invites other members of the WHS Academic Alliance to become partner institutions of the project and contribute significantly – based on their specific competencies and strategies.
- iii. Adoption
- The initiative is proposed for adoption by the entire WHS Academic Alliance or by a subgroup.
  - It needs to be accepted by WHS Foundation GmbH who will then take over the responsibility for the project with respect to logistics and costs.
  - Upon establishment, partners for the project – based on their specific competencies, strategies and interest – are solicited and the different roles in the project and the partners is defined.
  - External partners may be included in the project upon a respective decision of the internal project members.
  - The initiative is advertised under the WHS Academic Alliance name and logo using the WHS channels available for interaction with the global health community.

**Approvals:**

This document was approved by the ExCo: August 2024

This version dated July 30, 2024 was approved by the WHS Academic Assembly on: August 13, 2024