

July 16, 2025

World Council for Health Response on WHO's secretive 'Collaborating Centres'

Re: Your open letter in support of WHO Collaborating Centres

Urgent Attention (Notice to Principal is Notice to Agent and Vice Versa):

- Ivana Bozicevic, Director / Head WHO CC for HIV Strategic Information, University of Zagreb School of Medicine, Croatia CRO-18
- Stjepan Oreskovic, Director Head WHO CC for HIV Strategic Information, University of Zagreb School of Medicine, Croatia CRO-18
- George Kuchukhidze, WHO Responsible Officer for CRO-18:
- Meg Doherty, WHO Technical Counterpart for CRO-18:
- Rieke van der Graaf, Director / Head WHO CC for Bioethics, Utrecht, University Medical Centre Utrecht, Netherlands NET-101
- Andreas Alois Reis, WHO Responsible Officer for NET-101
- Marge Reinap, WHO Technical Counterpart for NET-101
- Martin McKee, Advisory Committee Member Centre for Global Chronic Conditions,
- Prof Adrianna Murphy, Director / Head WHO CC for Health Systems and Chronic Conditions, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK UNK-299
- Anoop Shah Director, / Head WHO CC for Health Systems and Chronic Conditions, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK UNK-299
- Govin Permanand, WHO Responsible Officer for UNK-299
- Rudolf Eggers, WHO Technical Counterpart for UNK-299
- And the 479 WHO Collaborating Centres signatories

Dear Ivana Bozicevic, Stjepan Oreskovic, Rieke van der Graaf, Martin McKee, and the 479 WHO Collaborating Centre signatories, listed on Supplementary Appendix 2, attached.

By way of introduction, WCH is a non-profit initiative, that is informed and supported by the people. Our international coalition of health-focused initiatives and civil society groups seeks to broaden public knowledge and sense-making through science and shared wisdom. We are dedicated to safeguarding human rights and free will, whilst empowering people to take control of their health and wellbeing. WCH is not funded by the pharmaceutical industry.

The [WHO Values Charter](#) states *“WHO, as the directing and coordinating authority on international health within the United Nations system, adheres to the UN core values of integrity, professionalism and respect for diversity. The values of the WHO workforce furthermore reflect the principles of human rights, universality and equity established in WHO’s Constitution as well as the ethical standards of the Organization. These values are inspired by the WHO vision of a world in which all peoples attain the highest possible level of health, and our mission to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable, with measurable impact for people at country level. We are individually and collectively committed to put these values into practice.”*

A. Your Open Letter published in The Lancet

We refer to your [open letter in the Lancet](#) (Appendix 1), stating that you collectively and unquestioningly *“fully support WHO in carrying out the constitutional mandate, and call on everyone – including member states, donors, partners, and other stakeholders – to continue investing in WHO to promote health and safety while helping vulnerable populations worldwide.”*

World Council for Health is deeply concerned at the centralized, unprecedented power that the WHO is expecting of member states, promoted by yourselves in publicly unknown WHO Collaborating Centres, thus fully supporting WHO in carrying out its controversial mandate, including International Health Regulation 2005 amendments, and the New Pandemic Treaty.

In May 2025, the World Health Assembly adopted an international pandemic treaty purportedly aimed at coordinating international responses to future health

emergencies with the promise of cooperation, transparency and preparedness. The WHO is seeking to establish a legally binding framework for countries to share information and resources and to coordinate responses during pandemics. Currently the IHR amendments, controversially adopted last year, will go into effect in September 2025, despite massive political and public opposition (including but not limited to) to the role the WHO played during Covid-19.

B. Conflicts of Interest, Transparency and Accountability

[The WHO document, Guide for WHO Collaborating Centres](#), attached as supplementary Appendix 3, highlights some very serious issues regarding conflicts of interest with WHO Collaborating Centres and the WHO regarding:

1. WHO CC activities,
2. WHO CC workplans,
3. WHO CC deliverables,
4. WHO CC intellectual property rights / patent ownership,
5. sources of funding for the WHO CC's, and
6. ultimately the WHO CC deliverables.

The WHO CC Terms of Reference are available on the WHO website. *"The Terms of Reference are short, one-sentence points providing a general high-level overview of the area of future collaboration. They must reflect the future collaboration between WHO and the proposed institution, rather than the usual work of the institution. **No details about the activities should be included.**"* This is a disturbing lack of transparency and violation of human rights.

- 1. WHO CC activities, workplans, deliverables, intellectual property, patents and funding associated with the WHO CC designation periods are not transparent / available for review.**
- 2. Please advise: Many WHO Collaborating Centres are Government Agencies. Do WHO Collaborating Centres have established conflicts of interest through WHO CC contracts?**
- 3. What is your position on Transparency, Accountability and the Public Interest?**

C. Public Interest Request for Information and Documents

World Council for Health requests from the WHO and WHO Collaborating Centres:

1. All WHO CC activities, workplans, projects, deliverables, intellectual property rights / patents and funding associated with every WHO CC for the period of 2018 – 2025
2. A commitment from WHO experts to engage in transparent, respectful, public discussion with World Council for Health Experts regarding WHO's performance in past five years, the IHR 2005 amendments, and the WHO's new Pandemic Treaty,

Please confirm receipt of these requests in writing at

info@worldcouncilforhealth.org

As a matter of priority and acting in good faith for the people of the world, we look forward to receiving the requested, transparent, non-redacted information as above, in **3 days** from the date of this letter, and to a commitment from the WHO and WHO Collaboration Centres to engage with WCH and others to discuss these serious concerns. Ultimately, as individuals and organisations, we are bound by law to have the public's informed consent on our actions.

According to the United Nation's staff and documents:

- "People wish to be heard and to participate in the decisions that affect them. Institutions could establish better ways of listening to people whom they are meant to serve and taking their views into account, especially groups that are frequently overlooked, such as women, young people, minority groups or persons with disabilities." António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations. Our Common Agenda. 2020.
- "Participatory approaches to decision-making and policy discussions help to forge a positive dynamic relationship between people and their governments, where peaceful protests and grievances can be addressed and settled by responsive and accountable administrations: this significantly reduces the

risk of fragility, crisis and violence, thereby making societies safer and more resilient and policymaking more effective and legitimate.”

- “Conversely, the absence of dialogue is likely to exacerbate social and political tensions. Repeated attempts to restrict civic space, and excluding individuals and groups from expressing their views, assembling freely, creating associations and participating in decision-making are often a prelude to a general deterioration in the political situation and to further human rights violations, and therefore a clear early warning sign. Engaging people also makes for more legitimate and effective decisions, more widely supported and more likely to be successfully implemented.”
- “The UN must promote community empowerment, participatory approaches, and multi-sectoral collaboration to engage civil society. The UN must encourage member states to involve communities in vision, policy development, program planning, and service delivery to ensure interventions are responsive to local needs”

We look forward to hearing from you and to upholding human rights and rule of law.

Regards,

World Council for Health

info@worldcouncilforhealth.org