



International  
Pharmaceutical  
Students' Federation

# WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY BOOKLET

**73rd World Health Assembly**

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**May 17th to May 21st 2020  
in GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**





# WHAT IS IPSF?

*"IPSF currently represents over 350,000 pharmacy, pharmaceutical science students, and recent graduates in 88 countries worldwide."*

The International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation (IPSF) is the leading international advocacy organization for pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences students. It was founded in 1949, making it the oldest international student federation. IPSF currently represents over 350,000 pharmacy, pharmaceutical science students, and recent graduates in 88 countries worldwide. IPSF is a non-governmental, non-religious, non-political, non-profit organization that aims to study and promote the interests of pharmacy, pharmaceutical science students, and recent graduates.

IPSF encourages international cooperation for the promotion of improved public health. To achieve this, IPSF concentrates its efforts on public health, pharmacy education, professional development, and the Students' Exchange Programme (SEP). The Public Health portfolio is one of IPSF's focus areas, and the

Federation encourages its members to play an active role in population education. IPSF focuses on topics including non-communicable diseases (NCDs), healthy living, communicable diseases, reproductive health, as well as medicine awareness and substandard and falsified (SF) medical products. In addition, IPSF promotes humanitarian activities and human rights advocacy.

IPSF holds official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) and works in collaboration with different international organizations, such as the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA), and the Fight the Fakes campaign.

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## **WHAT IS WHO?**

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that is concerned with international public health. It was established on April 7th, 1948 - a date that is now celebrated yearly as World

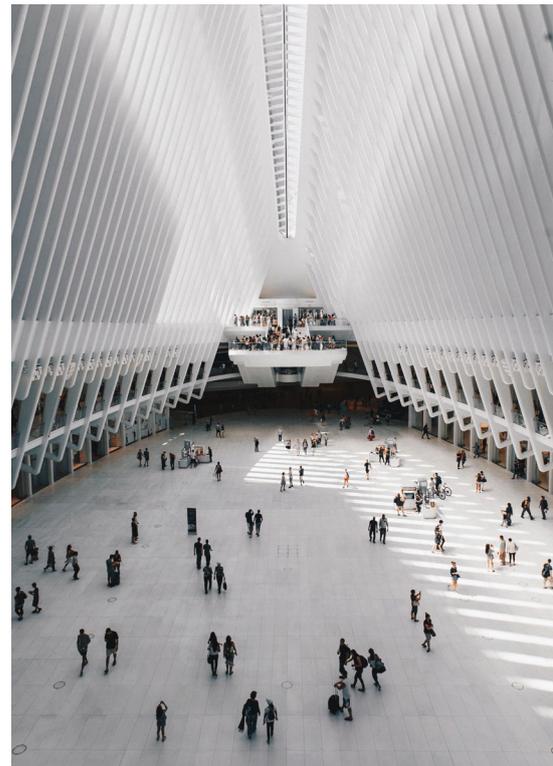
Health Day. The WHO now has more than 7,000 public health experts including doctors, epidemiologists, scientists, managers, administrators, and other professionals from all over the world working in 150 coun-

try offices, 6 regional offices and at the headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. There are 193 countries and two associate members within WHO's membership.

# According to the WHO's member profile on the Global Health Workforce Alliance website, the WHO fulfills its objectives through its core functions:

- Providing leadership on matters critical to health and engaging in partnerships where joint action is needed;
- Shaping the research agenda and stimulating the generation, translation and dissemination of valuable knowledge;
- Setting norms and standards, and promoting and monitoring their implementation;
- Articulating ethical and evidence-based policy options;
- Providing technical support, catalyzing change, and building sustainable institutional capacity;
- “Monitoring the health situation and assessing health trends”

***“WHO is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that is concerned with international public health.”***



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# WHAT IS WHA?

The World Health Assembly (WHA) is the decision-making body of the WHO. It is attended by delegates from all 193 WHO Member States every year, and it focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board. According to the WHO's official website, the main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget. The WHA is held annually in May in Geneva, Switzerland. The 73rd WHA will take place from the 17th to the 21st of May, 2020.

It is at the Health Assembly that the WHO's work is reviewed, new goals are set, and new tasks assigned. Each year the WHA has a long and complex list of health challenges and responses to review.

## **AT THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY, TWO MAIN TYPES OF MEETINGS ARE HELD, EACH WITH A DIFFERENT PURPOSE:**



- The plenary meetings are attended by all WHA delegates. The Health Assembly meets in plenary sessions several times in order to listen to reports and adopt the resolutions conveyed by the committees. The Director-General and Member States also address the delegates at the plenary. This is where the agenda is discussed and adopted.

- The technical briefings are organized separately on specific public health topics in order to present new developments in the area, provide a forum for debate and to allow for information sharing.

In addition, there are two types of committees. Committee A meets to debate technical and health matters as well as programme matters. While the financial, management, administrative, and legal issues are discussed amongst Committee B. The committees approve the texts of resolutions, which are then submitted to the plenary meeting.

***The 73rd WHA will take place from the 17th to the 21st of May, 2020.***



## **What is policy and why is it necessary?**

Policy is a term used to describe a set of ideas or plans that are used as a basis for making decisions. It is a deliberate system of principles to guide the decision-making process and achieve rational outcomes. Policies are necessary to provide evidence and justification for the initiatives an organization is involved in. It provides an avenue to drive change and advocacy in a particular area of interest. It can also serve as the official opinion of an organization on a particular issue. A policy statement is essentially a brief statement of an organization's perspective and position towards a particular issue or policy. IPSF delivers multiple policy statements at WHA.

## **From Policy into Advocacy**

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Advocacy is a term used to describe a set of targeted actions directed at decision makers in support of a specific policy issue. It is a process which may occur over an unspecified amount of time, sometimes brief and often lengthy. It is also strategic and targets well-designed activities to key stakeholders and decision makers. Advocacy is always directed at influencing policy, laws, regulations, programs, funding, or decisions made at the uppermost levels of public or private sector institutions. Advocacy is both a science and an art. As a science, it is most effective when it is planned systematically. It follows specific steps during the design and implementation of a campaign. From an art perspective, it has elements of creativity, style and sometimes humor, in order to gain wide attention.



## What does IPSF do at WHA?

- Convey the different voices of pharmacy students worldwide towards addressing global health issues;
- Sustain existing connections and establish new relationships with various stakeholders in health;
- Develop partnerships and collaborative projects that are focused on key areas of global health.

As delegates, it is important for each member to realize that advocating for certain causes and topics is one of IPSF's crucial roles, and it is mostly done through policy statements that are presented by IPSF at the WHA. Through those statements, IPSF attempts to shed light on the importance of pharmacists as essential health care professionals who can, and should, influence the process of decision-making. Furthermore, networking and establishing new connections and collaborations, in addition to maintaining old ones is of vital importance, as these help IPSF find partners who are willing to support IPSF and create new opportunities, such as internships and funding.

# To contribute is a valid attribute...

## How can the IPSF WHA delegation make an impact?



As representatives of IPSF, WHA delegates speak out and convey the different voices of pharmacy students worldwide. In order to work in a systematic and organized manner to achieve our goals, it is important that the delegates contribute actively to IPSF's role at the WHA. This can be done by:

**1. Delivering their expectations of the assembly and their priorities in relation to the positions they will be holding.** This communication between the members helps convey the needs and wants, and achieves the best outcomes that suit all parties involved. This is how one can contribute to the success of the delegation and leave a good impression at the assembly.

**2. Giving input to the IPSF team about the topics and issues they are interested in.** This helps IPSF focus on the most important topics that each delegate is interested in. IPSF tries to highlight these issues

while networking and in our position statements. This also helps in assigning delegates to the side-events that they are most interested in and passionate about. This way, each delegation would result in outcomes that are customized to the members who contributed to it and it would be collective of their perspectives, making each delegation unique and special in its own way.

**3. Networking and connecting with representatives from different countries and organizations.** Since one of our key roles will be to maintain current connections and develop new relationships with various stakeholders, then networking and leaving a good impression is key. Delegates must be able to identify, communicate and establish linkages, partnerships & collaborations between IPSF and poten-

tial contacts. As IPSF delegates, we must make our voices heard and emphasize our participation and our role as future pharmacists in addressing various public health issues.

**4. Engaging in social media,** by using hashtags, live streaming and tweeting.

## WHAT ARE “SIDE EVENTS” AT THE WHA?

You can find many side events that take place inside the Palais de Nations and elsewhere around that discuss various topics such as health security, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), disease-specific events, access to medical products, and other events discussing various sectors of humanity. It is a great chance to learn about new and advancing topics related to public health and what the world is focusing on at that current stage. It is also a good chance for the delegates to socialize, network and make their voices heard by asking questions or stating how IPSF is contributing to the discussed topic at the end of the event.

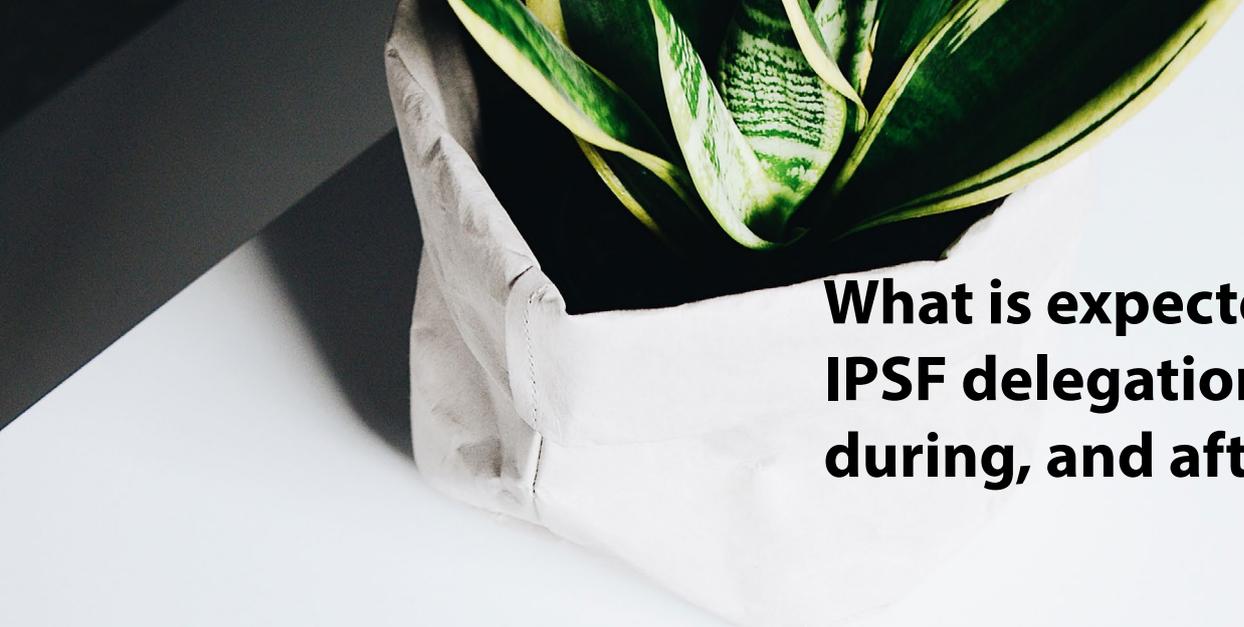
## INTERACTIVE BOOTHS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GLOBAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

Within the halls of the UN, delegates can find many booths that advertise certain global health initiatives or campaigns, such as the 'Not a Target' campaign and the 'No To Tobacco' campaign.

Many booths prepare interactive ways to deliver their key message, such as VR headset videos and other interesting activities.

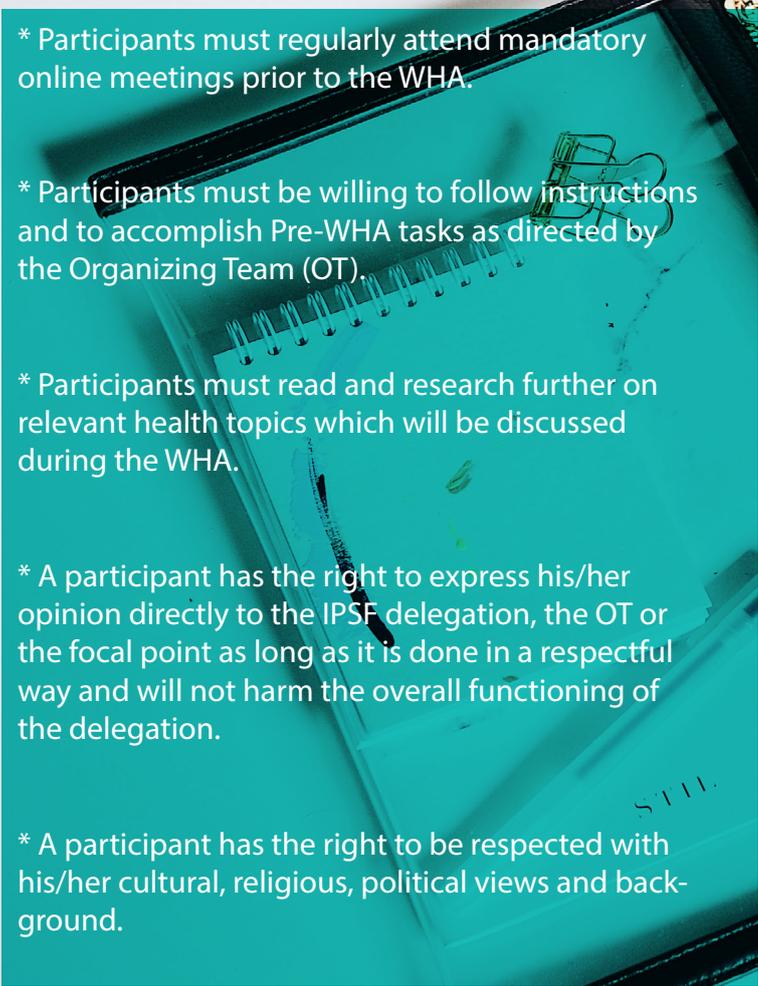
## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

After a long tiresome day at the UN, delegates will have some time off to relax and explore Geneva. There will be many social activities at night, where delegates will get an opportunity to meet and network with fellow delegates and health professional students from other organizations. In addition, the International Night is one of the most exciting events that you certainly do not want to miss!



## What is expected of the IPSF delegation before, during, and after WHA?

### *Before the World Health Assembly*

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- \* Participants must regularly attend mandatory online meetings prior to the WHA.
  - \* Participants must be willing to follow instructions and to accomplish Pre-WHA tasks as directed by the Organizing Team (OT).
  - \* Participants must read and research further on relevant health topics which will be discussed during the WHA.
  - \* A participant has the right to express his/her opinion directly to the IPSF delegation, the OT or the focal point as long as it is done in a respectful way and will not harm the overall functioning of the delegation.
  - \* A participant has the right to be respected with his/her cultural, religious, political views and background.

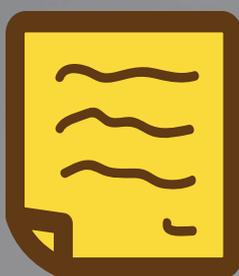
## Online meetings may serve for the following purposes:

- \* Briefing the IPSF delegation to the WHA
- \* Assigning tasks and contributions to the IPSF delegation
- \* Capacity- and team-building for the IPSF delegation prior to the WHA
- \* Conveying information about IPSF representation & external contacts
- \* Planning for cultural and social events before and during the WHA
- \* Discussing IPSF's position regarding WHA topics
- \* Developing policy statements and interventions

## *During the World Health Assembly*



Participants should be present at all times and for the whole duration of the WHA as well the IPSF Pre-WHA Onsite Training.



Participants must be willing to follow instructions and to accomplish WHA tasks as directed by the OT.



Participants must conduct themselves in the most appropriate manner and behavior, while representing IPSF.

## *After the World Health Assembly*

Participants must be willing to accomplish Post-WHA tasks as directed by the OT

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International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation  
**WHA Booklet**



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Established in 1949, IPSF is the leading international advocacy organisation for pharmacy and pharmaceutical students and recent graduates that promotes improved public health through the provision of information, education, networking and a range of publication and professional activities

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