

## **Request to submit a statement by accredited non-State actors at sessions of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa**

In accordance with Paragraph 15 of the Annex of the Document AFR/RC71/2, accredited non-State actors wishing to make a statement at sessions of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa must submit a request to the External Relations, Partnerships and Governing Bodies Unit (EPG) of the WHO Regional Office for Africa (at the e-mail address: [GoverningBodiesAfro@who.int](mailto:GoverningBodiesAfro@who.int)) not later than one week before the start date of the session.

The statement should respect the time and word limits set for statements by non-State actors for the relevant session, as specified in the session's Information note disseminated to all participants. The statement should focus on technical issues and should be directly relevant to both the agenda item and to the document prepared for the item. The statement should not raise issues of a political nature that are unrelated to the agenda item and should not contain any inappropriate or offensive reference to Member States. While there should be no reference to any individual Member State or areas of Member States, it is recalled that nomenclature must follow that of the United Nations.

The Chairperson of the Regional Committee decides whether or not to accord the accredited non-State actors the right to make its oral statement during the session in light of its relevance to the discussion, the time constraints or any other reason.

The statement is posted on the website of the WHO Regional Office for Africa for a limited time period as determined by the Secretariat, and will not be retained thereafter.

**Name and acronym of the accredited non-State actor** (in English, French or Portuguese):

World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Date and title of the session:** Pillar 1: One billion more people benefitting from universal health coverage  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Agenda item (number, title):** Provisional Agenda Item 9; Regional strategy to strengthen rehabilitation in health systems 2025–2035  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Form of the statement:**      ☒ Written      ☐ Oral

If in oral form, name and function of the person wishing to read the statement: \_\_\_\_\_

Statement (in English, French or Portuguese): \_\_\_\_\_

The World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) is the international representative for the occupational therapy profession and a member of the World Rehabilitation Alliance, a WHO-hosted network of 102 partners.

WFOT welcomes the Regional Strategy to Strengthen Rehabilitation in Health Systems 2025–2035, as outlined in AFR/RC75/6.

This strategy is a milestone in embedding rehabilitation within UHC, aligned with World Health Assembly resolution 76.6. We urge Member States to adopt and resource it fully, prioritising workforce development, integration into primary care and sustainable financing so that all people can achieve the highest possible level of functioning and quality of life.

The WFOT and its member organisations are committed to working with governments at all levels, non-government organisations, people and communities to deliver the regional strategy to strengthen rehabilitation in the AFRO region. Embedding occupational therapy within the regional strategy will ensure accessible, equitable and effective rehabilitation - advancing the WHO Rehabilitation 2030 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Name: Samantha Shann

Position: President

Date: 15 August 2025