

No. 115

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**UNITED NATIONS**  
**and**  
**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

**Agreement between the United Nations and the World Health Organization, approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15 November 1947 and by the World Health Assembly on 10 July 1948, and Protocol concerning the entry into force of the said Agreement. Signed at Paris, on 12 November 1948**

*English and French official texts. The filing and recording took place on 12 November 1948.*

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**ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES**  
**et**  
**ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE**

**Accord entre l'Organisation des Nations Unies et l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, approuvé par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies le 15 novembre 1947 et par l'Assemblée de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé le 10 juillet 1948, et Protocole relatif à l'entrée en vigueur dudit Accord. Signé à Paris, le 12 novembre 1948**

*Textes officiels anglais et français. Le classement et l'inscription au répertoire ont eu lieu le 12 novembre 1948.*

No. 115. AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON 15 NOVEMBER 1947 AND BY THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY ON 10 JULY 1948

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PREAMBLE

Article 57 of the Charter of the United Nations provides that specialized agencies established by inter-governmental agreement and having wide international responsibilities as defined in their basic instruments in economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related fields shall be brought into relationship with the United Nations.

Article 69 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization provides that the Organization shall be brought into relation with the United Nations as one of the specialized agencies referred to in Article 57 of the Charter.

Therefore, the United Nations and the World Health Organization agree as follows:

*Article I*

The United Nations recognizes the World Health Organization as the specialized agency responsible for taking such action as may be appropriate under its Constitution for the accomplishment of the objectives set forth therein.

*Article II*

RECIPROCAL REPRESENTATION

1. Representatives of the United Nations shall be invited to attend the meetings of the World Health Assembly and its committees, the Executive Board, and such general, regional or other special meetings as the Organization may convene, and to participate, without vote, in the deliberations of these bodies.

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<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 10 July 1948, in accordance with article XXII, having been approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15 November 1947 (resolution 124 (II)) and by the World Health Assembly on 10 July 1948.

2. Representatives of the World Health Organization shall be invited to attend meetings of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (hereinafter called the Council) and of its commissions and committees, and to participate, without vote, in the deliberations of these bodies with respect to items on their agenda relating to health matters.

3. Representatives of the World Health Organization shall be invited to attend meetings of the General Assembly for purposes of consultation on matters within the scope of its competence.

4. Representatives of the World Health Organization shall be invited to attend meetings of the main committees of the General Assembly when matters within the scope of its competence are under discussion, and to participate, without vote, in such discussions.

5. Representatives of the World Health Organization shall be invited to attend the meetings of the Trusteeship Council, and to participate, without vote, in the deliberations thereof with respect to items on the agenda relating to matters within the competence of the World Health Organization.

6. Written statements of the World Health Organization shall be distributed by the Secretariat of the United Nations to all members of the General Assembly, the Council and its commissions, and the Trusteeship Council, as appropriate. Similarly, written statements presented by the United Nations shall be distributed by the World Health Organization to all members of the World Health Assembly or the Executive Board, as appropriate.

### *Article III*

#### PROPOSAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Subject to such preliminary consultation as may be necessary, the World Health Organization shall include in the agenda of the Health Assembly or Executive Board, as appropriate, items proposed to it by the United Nations. Similarly, the Council and its commissions and the Trusteeship Council shall include in their agenda items proposed by the World Health Organization.

### *Article IV*

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

1. The World Health Organization, having regard to the obligation of the United Nations to promote the objectives set forth in Article 55 of the

Charter, and the function and power of the Council, under Article 62 of the Charter, to make or initiate studies and reports with respect to international economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related matters and to make recommendations concerning these matters to the specialized agencies concerned, and having regard also to the responsibility of the United Nations, under Articles 58 and 63 of the Charter, to make recommendations for the co-ordination of the policies and activities of such specialized agencies, agrees to arrange for the submission, as soon as possible, to the Health Assembly, the Executive Board or such other organ of the World Health Organization as may be appropriate, of all formal recommendations which the United Nations may make to it.

2. The World Health Organization agrees to enter into consultation with the United Nations upon request with respect to such recommendations, and in due course to report to the United Nations on the action taken by the Organization or by its members to give effect to such recommendations, or on the other results of their consideration.

3. The World Health Organization affirms its intention of co-operating in whatever further measures may be necessary to make co-ordination of the activities of specialized agencies and those of the United Nations fully effective. In particular, it agrees to participate in and to co-operate with any body or bodies which the Council may establish for the purpose of facilitating such co-ordination, and to furnish such information as may be required for the carrying out of this purpose.

#### *Article V*

##### EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS

1. Subject to such arrangements as may be necessary for the safeguarding of confidential material, the fullest and promptest exchange of information and documents shall be made between the United Nations and the World Health Organization.

2. Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of paragraph 1:

(a) The World Health Organization agrees to transmit to the United Nations regular reports on the activities of the Organization;

(b) The World Health Organization agrees to comply to the fullest extent practicable with any request which the United Nations may make for the

furnishing of special reports, studies or information, subject to the conditions set forth in article XVI;

(c) The Secretary-General shall, upon request, transmit to the Director-General of the World Health Organization such information, documents or other material as may from time to time be agreed between them.

### *Article VI*

#### PUBLIC INFORMATION

Having regard to the functions of the World Health Organization, as defined in article 2, paragraphs (q) and (r), of its Constitution, to provide information in the field of health and to assist in developing an informed public opinion among all peoples on matters of health, and with a view to furthering co-operation and developing joint services in the field of public information between the Organization and the United Nations, a subsidiary agreement on such matters shall be concluded as soon as possible after the coming into force of the present agreement.

### *Article VII*

#### ASSISTANCE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The World Health Organization agrees to co-operate with the Council in furnishing such information and rendering such assistance for the maintenance or restoration of international peace and security as the Security Council may request.

### *Article VIII*

#### ASSISTANCE TO THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

The World Health Organization agrees to co-operate with the Trusteeship Council in the carrying out of its functions and in particular agrees that it will, to the greatest extent possible, render such assistance as the Trusteeship Council may request in regard to matters with which the Organization is concerned.

### *Article IX*

#### NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

The World Health Organization agrees to co-operate with the United Nations in giving effect to the principles and obligations set forth in Chapter XI of the Charter with regard to matters affecting the well-being and development of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

*Article X*

## RELATIONS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

1. The World Health Organization agrees to furnish any information which may be requested by the International Court of Justice in pursuance of Article 34 of the Statute of the Court.

2. The General Assembly authorizes the World Health Organization to request advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice on legal questions arising within the scope of its competence other than questions concerning the mutual relationships of the Organization and the United Nations or other specialized agencies.

3. Such request may be addressed to the Court by the Health Assembly or by the Executive Board acting in pursuance of an authorization by the Health Assembly.

4. When requesting the International Court of Justice to give an advisory opinion, the World Health Organization shall inform the Economic and Social Council of the request.

*Article XI*

## HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL OFFICES

1. The World Health Organization agrees to consult with the United Nations before making any decision concerning the location of its permanent headquarters.

2. Any regional or branch offices which the World Health Organization may establish shall, so far as is practicable, be closely associated with such regional or branch offices as the United Nations may establish.

*Article XII*

## PERSONNEL ARRANGEMENTS

1. The United Nations and the World Health Organization recognize that the eventual development of a single unified international civil service is desirable from the standpoint of effective administrative co-ordination, and with this end in view agree to develop, as far as is practicable, common personnel standards, methods and arrangements designed to avoid serious discrepancies in terms and conditions of employment, to avoid competition in recruitment of personnel, and to facilitate interchange of personnel in order to obtain the maximum benefit from their services.

2. The United Nations and the World Health Organization agree to co-operate to the fullest extent possible in achieving these ends and in particular they agree to:

(a) Consult together concerning the establishment of an international civil service commission to advise on the means by which common standards of recruitment in the secretariats of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies may be ensured;

(b) Consult together concerning other matters relating to the employment of their officers and staff, including conditions of service, duration of appointments, classification, salary scales and allowances, retirement and pension rights and staff regulations and rules with a view to securing as much uniformity in these matters as shall be found practicable;

(c) Co-operate in the interchange of personnel when desirable on a temporary or permanent basis, making due provision for the retention of seniority and pension rights;

(d) Co-operate in the establishment and operation of suitable machinery for the settlement of disputes arising in connexion with the employment of personnel and related matters.

### *Article XIII*

#### STATISTICAL SERVICES

1. The United Nations and the World Health Organization agree to strive for maximum co-operation, the elimination of all undesirable duplication between them, and the most efficient use of their technical personnel in their respective collection, analysis, publication and dissemination of statistical information. They agree to combine their efforts to secure the greatest possible usefulness and utilization of statistical information and to minimize the burdens placed upon national Governments and other organizations from which such information may be collected.

2. The World Health Organization recognizes the United Nations as the central agency for the collection, analysis, publication, standardization, dissemination and improvement of statistics serving the general purposes of international organizations.

3. The United Nations recognizes the World Health Organization as the appropriate agency for the collection, analysis, publication, standardization, dissemination and improvement of statistics within its special sphere, without prejudice to the right of the United Nations to concern itself with such statistics so far as they may be essential for its own purpose or for the improvement of statistics throughout the world.

4. The United Nations shall, in consultation with the specialized agencies, develop administrative instruments and procedures through which effective statistical co-operation may be secured between the United Nations and the agencies brought into relationship with it.

5. It is recognized as desirable that the collection of statistical information should not be duplicated by the United Nations or any of the specialized agencies whenever it is practicable for any of them to utilize information or materials which another may have available.

6. In order to build up a central collection of statistical information for general use, it is agreed that data supplied to the World Health Organization for incorporation in its basic statistical series or special reports should, so far as is practicable, be made available to the United Nations.

#### *Article XIV*

##### ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

1. The United Nations and the World Health Organization recognize the desirability, in the interest of administrative and technical uniformity and of the most efficient use of personnel and resources, of avoiding, whenever possible, the establishment and operation of competitive or overlapping facilities and services among the United Nations and the specialized agencies.

2. Accordingly, the United Nations and the World Health Organization agree to consult together concerning the establishment and use of common administrative and technical services and facilities in addition to those referred to in articles XII, XIII and XV, in so far as the establishment and use of such services may from time to time be found practicable and appropriate.

3. Arrangements shall be made between the United Nations and the World Health Organization with regard to registration and deposit of official documents.



*Article XV*

## BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. The World Health Organization recognizes the desirability of establishing close budgetary and financial relationships with the United Nations in order that the administrative operations of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies shall be carried out in the most efficient and economical manner possible, and that the maximum measure of co-ordination and uniformity with respect to these operations shall be secured.

2. The United Nations and the World Health Organization agree to co-operate to the fullest extent possible in achieving these ends and, in particular, shall consult together concerning the desirability of the inclusion of the budget of the Organization within a general budget of the United Nations. Any arrangements to this effect shall be defined in a supplementary agreement between the two organizations.

3. Pending the conclusion of any such agreement, the following arrangements shall govern budgetary and financial relationships between the World Health Organization and the United Nations:

(a) The Secretary-General and the Director-General shall arrange for consultation in connexion with the preparation of the budget of the World Health Organization.

(b) The World Health Organization agrees to transmit its proposed budget to the United Nations annually at the same time as such budget is transmitted to its members. The General Assembly shall examine the budget or proposed budget of the Organization and may make recommendations to it concerning any item or items contained therein.

(c) Representatives of the World Health Organization shall be entitled to participate, without vote, in the deliberations of the General Assembly or any committee thereof at all times when the budget of the World Health Organization or general administrative or financial questions affecting the Organization are under consideration.

(d) The United Nations may undertake the collection of contributions from those members of the World Health Organization which are also Members of the United Nations in accordance with such arrangements as may be defined by a later agreement between the United Nations and the Organization.

(e) The United Nations shall, upon its own initiative or upon the request of the World Health Organization, arrange for studies to be undertaken concerning other financial and fiscal questions of interest to the Organization and to other specialized agencies with a view to the provision of common services and the securing of uniformity in such matters.

(f) The World Health Organization agrees to conform, as far as may be practicable, to standard practices and forms recommended by the United Nations.

### *Article XVI*

#### FINANCING OF SPECIAL SERVICES

1. In the event of the World Health Organization being faced with the necessity of incurring substantial extra expense as a result of any request which the United Nations may make for special reports, studies or assistance in accordance with articles V, VII, VIII, or with other provisions of this agreement, consultation shall take place with a view to determining the most equitable manner in which such expense shall be borne.

2. Consultation between the United Nations and the World Health Organization shall similarly take place with a view to making such arrangements as may be found equitable for covering the costs of central administrative, technical or fiscal services or facilities or other special assistance provided by the United Nations, in so far as they apply to the World Health Organization.

### *Article XVII*

#### UNITED NATIONS "LAISSEZ-PASSER"

Officials of the World Health Organization shall have the right to use the *laissez-passer* of the United Nations in accordance with the special arrangements to be negotiated between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the World Health Organization.

### *Article XVIII*

#### INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENTS

The World Health Organization agrees to inform the Council of any formal agreement between the Organization and any other specialized agency, inter-governmental organization or non-governmental organization, and in particular agrees to inform the Council of the nature and scope of any such agreement before it is concluded.

*Article XIX*

## LIAISON

1. The United Nations and the World Health Organization agree to the foregoing provisions in the belief that they will contribute to the maintenance of effective liaison between the two organizations. They affirm their intention of taking whatever further measures may be necessary to make this liaison fully effective.

2. The liaison arrangements provided for in the foregoing articles of this agreement shall apply, as far as is appropriate, to the relations between such branch or regional offices as may be established by the two organizations, as well as between their central headquarters.

*Article XX*

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT

The Secretary-General and the Director-General may enter into such supplementary arrangements for the implementation of this agreement as may be found desirable in the light of the operating experience of the two organizations.

*Article XXI*

## REVISION

This agreement shall be subject to revision by agreement between the United Nations and the World Health Organization.

*Article XXII*

## ENTRY INTO FORCE

This agreement shall come into force on its approval by the General Assembly of the United Nations and the World Health Assembly.

PROTOCOL CONCERNING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. SIGNED AT PARIS, ON 12 NOVEMBER 1948

Article 57 of the Charter of the United Nations provides that specialized agencies established by inter-governmental agreement and having wide international responsibilities as defined in their basic instruments in economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related fields shall be brought into relationship with the United Nations. Article 63 of the Charter provides that the Economic and Social Council may enter into agreements with any of the agencies referred to in Article 57, defining the terms on which the agency concerned shall be brought into relationship with the United Nations, and specifies that such agreements shall be subject to approval by the General Assembly.

Article 69 of the Constitution of the World Health Organization provides that the Organization shall be brought into relation with the United Nations as one of the specialized agencies referred to in Article 57 of the Charter.

On 3 October 1946, the Economic and Social Council, during its third session, directed the Secretary-General to initiate as soon as possible conversations with the Interim Commission of the World Health Organization for the purpose of preparing an agreement to be negotiated at an early session of the Economic and Social Council.

The Interim Commission of the World Health Organization, having been informed of the aforementioned decision of the Economic and Social Council, appointed a Committee to enter into negotiations with the United Nations Committee on Negotiations with Specialized Agencies to prepare a draft agreement.

Negotiations between the Committee on Negotiations with Specialized Agencies of the Economic and Social Council and the Negotiating Delegation of the World Health Organization took place at Lake Success on 4 August 1947 and resulted in an Agreement. This draft agreement was signed on 8 August 1947 by Mr. Jan Papanek, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Economic and Social Council on Negotiations with Specialized Agencies, and Dr. W. A. Timmerman, Chairman of the Negotiating Committee of the World Health Organization.

On 13 August 1947, the Economic and Social Council, during its fifth session, unanimously recommended the agreement between the United Nations and the World Health Organization to the General Assembly for its approval.

The Interim Commission of the World Health Organization, at its fourth session held in Geneva, approved on 12 September 1947 the draft agreement between the United Nations and the World Health Organization.

On 20 October 1947, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, upon request of the Executive Secretary of the Interim Commission of the World Health Organization, proposed to the General Assembly an additional article on the use of the United Nations *laissez-passer*, to be inserted in the draft agreement.

The Agreement between the United Nations and the World Health Organization, with the insertion in the Agreement of the article on the use of the United Nations *laissez-passer*, was approved by the General Assembly during its second regular session on 15 November 1947 and by the First World Health Assembly on 10 July 1948.

Article XXII of the Agreement provides that this agreement shall come into force on its approval by the General Assembly of the United Nations and the World Health Assembly.

The Agreement accordingly came into force on 10 July 1948.

A copy of the authentic text of the Agreement is attached hereto.

IN FAITH WHEREOF we have appended our signatures this twelfth day of November, one thousand nine hundred and forty-eight, to two original copies of the present Protocol, the text of which consists of versions in the English and French languages which are equally authentic. One of the original copies will be deposited with the Secretariat of the United Nations and the other will be deposited with the Secretariat of the World Health Organization.

Trygve LIE  
Secretary-General of the United Nations

Brock CHISHOLM  
Director-General of the World Health Organization