Statements by NGOs in official relations with WHO at the WHO governing body meetings

14.6 International Society of Radiology

Meeting:
Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly (A67/1)

Agenda Item:
14.6 – Contributing to social and economic development: sustainable action across sectors to improve health and health equity

Statement:
On behalf of the International Society of Radiology (ISR) and International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists (ISRRT)

Radiology plays a pivotal role in health and patient care. It saves lives through early diagnosis and treatment monitoring.

It contributes to at least four of the Millennium Development Goals. Yet more than two thirds of the world population has no access to basic radiology of any kind! Previously Dr Harald Ostensen, a radiologist and permanent staff member at the WHO, coordinated the WHO effort. The Global Steering Group for Radiological Education was formed with the ISR. Educational programmes were implemented, including:
Centres of Excellence for training in Basic Imaging Interpretation; Basic Radiology and Radiographic Manuals.

Since his retirement in 2007, all these programmes came to a halt however, and the Global Steering Group has ceased to function.

To again fulfil the WHO’s global leadership, coordinating and facilitating roles and responsibilities, the following actions are needed, which will underpin universal, safe and patient-centred care:

Allocation of resources for reinstating a permanent radiologist position at WHO and providing program funding to improve access to safe and appropriate basic radiology;

Provision of an inclusive global platform for stakeholder engagement and collaboration.

The ISR is ready to collaborate with WHO and other interested NGOs in:

- Advocacy;
- Capacity building through education and training;
- Evidence-based policy making;
- Infrastructure strengthening and deployment;
- Monitoring and improving the quality of care.

The ISR urges the WHA to adopt a resolution to reinstate a coordinating radiologist position and initiate program funding to enable increased access to safe and appropriate basic radiology to improve health and health equity.