

Making Hearing Health a Global Priority

April 24, 2019

Dear CGHH Members,

I am writing to urge you to contact your country's Ministry of Health in support the progress report on deafness and hearing loss that will be presented at the Seventy-Second World Health Assembly in May 2019. By asking your Ministry of Health to comment on the progress report, you are actively supporting World Health Organization efforts to improve hearing health globally.

In May 2017, the Seventieth World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA 70.13 on prevention of deafness and hearing loss. This resolution marked the first resolution on hearing loss in twenty-two years. Several key activities have been undertaken in response to this resolution and will be described in the upcoming progress report. The World Report on Hearing is being developed and is anticipated to launch on 3 March 2020. Toolkits for ear and hearing care, such as the ear and hearing care situation analysis tool, have been published, and additional toolkits are being developed for release in 2019-2020. Technical support is being provided to support member states in development and implementation of national strategies for hearing care, including support in China, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, and Tajikistan.

The World Health Organization has also established the World Hearing Forum in response to the resolution on prevention of deafness and hearing loss. The inaugural Membership Assembly of this global network of stakeholders will be held on 4-5 December 2019. Additionally, the WHO launched the Make Listening Safe Initiative and continues to organize World Hearing Day, with activities supported in over 60 countries.

There has been substantial progress toward prevention of deafness and hearing loss since the resolution passed two years ago that warrants attention at the Seventy-Second World Health Assembly. Your support of the progress report will help meet the challenge of preventing and treating deafness and hearing loss around the globe and ensure that all people have access to hearing care. Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



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