



World Hearing Forum members' meeting

Concept note

29 November 2023

Background

The World Hearing Forum is a WHO-hosted global network advocating for universal access to ear and hearing care across the life course. Initiated in 2019, activities of the forum support implementation of the World Health Assembly resolution WHA70.13 on '[Deafness and hearing loss](#)' and the WHO [World report on hearing 2021](#).¹

Currently, the forum consists of nearly 200 member organizations including representation from Member States, professional bodies, nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions, user groups and private sector entities in the field of ear and hearing care (EHC). Forum members actively contribute to its work through its three workstreams including: the 'Changemakers', the 'Make Listening Safe', and the 'World Hearing Day'. Through members' actions on these three and the previous *World report on hearing*¹ workstream, significant progress has been made in ear and hearing care over the past few years. For example, the messages of the WHO *World report on hearing, 2021* were amplified in many countries through national launch events; participation in World Hearing Day has grown exponentially and its materials translated into multiple languages; lived experiences of those living with ear and hearing problems widely shared and publicized through a 'WHF Changemakers' website and social media pages; and safe listening guidelines have been adopted and implemented by governments and private sector entities.

Over the coming years, WHO aims to strengthen engagement with and among the Forum's members. It also considers it important to have greater diversity of representation, especially from health domains related to ear and hearing care, such as primary health care, maternal and child health, adolescent health, health of older persons, occupational health, and more.

To discuss the forum's workplan and share knowledge and experiences of the different working groups, WHO is hosting a member's meeting on 29 November with the **objectives** to:

1. Share WHO's vision for the forum
2. Review and revise the workplan of the forum
3. Renew the steering committee
4. Outline strategies for expanding the reach of the forum

¹ The *World report on hearing* working group, having achieved its objectives, was closed in 2023.

Date :

29 November 2023

Mode:

In person with option for online participation

Location:

WHO HQ, Geneva, Switzerland

Language:

English, with captioning

Participants:

- Members of the World Hearing Forum
- Representatives from ministries of health
- Representation from permission missions in Geneva
- Selected invitees
- WHO HQ, regional, and country offices