



Global Consultation

“A Decade of Patient Safety: 2020-2030”: Formulating the Global Patient Safety Action Plan

24–26 February 2020, Geneva, Switzerland

Background

The 72nd World Health Assembly, in May 2019, adopted resolution WHA72.6 on “Global Action on Patient Safety”, which urges Member States to recognize patient safety as a key priority in health sector policies and programmes. The resolution requests the WHO Director-General **“to formulate a global patient safety action plan in consultation with Member States, regional economic integration organizations and all relevant stakeholders, including in the private sector”**. This plan will be submitted to the 148th session of the Executive Board in January 2021, and thereafter to the 74th WHA, in May 2021. In this context, a three-day global consultation is proposed to be organized in Geneva to work with partners and experts to initiate the formulation of the Global Patient Safety Action Plan. This will also contribute to the agenda of the WHO regional committees for 2021.

The Global Patient Safety Action Plan

The Global Patient Safety Action Plan is a commitment from WHO, international health agencies and Member States to organize and roll out definitive action to reduce the overall burden of patient harm due to unsafe health care. The Global Patient Safety Action Plan will also work as the mainstream execution instrument for the 72nd WHA resolution on “Global action on patient safety”. This plan will be based on the guiding principles of equity, sustainability and accountability. The proposed action plan will seek inspiration and coherence with existing global action plans developed by WHO and other global health agencies. Aligned with the Sustainable Developmental Goals, the plan will be a roadmap for **“A Decade of Patient Safety: 2020-2030”**.

The action plan will be developed through an iterative process, including a scoping exercise, a literature review and a draft, formulated by the WHO Secretariat, followed by multiple consultation meetings, both virtual and face-to-face. The final draft will be placed on the WHO website for open public consultation.

Participants

The WHO Patient Safety and Risk Management Unit, at WHO headquarters, is planning to organize a three-day global consultation to kick off development of the Global Patient Safety Action Plan. This consultation will involve key experts from Member States and partners to discuss the steps needed for implementation of the WHA resolution on “Global action on patient safety”. The participants will include:

- experts, advisors, researchers, academics and representatives from Member States, from all WHO regions involved in developing patient safety programmes;
- regional and economic integration organizations, such as the European Union, African Union, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and World Bank;
- international organizations and WHO collaborating centers working on patient safety, including the International Society for Quality in Health Care, International Alliance of Patients' Organizations, Institute for Healthcare Improvement, International Council of Nurses,

International Pharmaceutical Federation, International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology, Patients for Patient Safety, Patient Safety Movement Foundation, World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists, World Medical Association and World Organization of Family Doctors;

- organizations including the Canadian Patient Safety Institute, Centre for Clinical Risk Management and Patient Safety (Italy), Directorate of Quality Assurance (Oman), German Coalition for Patient Safety, Imperial College London;
- Representation from WHO regional offices and selected WHO country offices;
- international donor agencies.

Subgroups

For the purpose of a focused discussion and a concrete recommendation plan, subgroups for specific themes will be constituted with a designated chair and rapporteur. Some of the proposed themes based on resolution WHA72.6 are: Patient safety governance and policy framework; Reporting and learning systems; Education, training and lifelong learning; Human resources and human factors for patient safety; Patient safety translational research and application of technology; Convergence and coordination with related, interdependent global, regional and national programmes including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), safety, quality of care, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and infection prevention and control (IPC); Patient and family engagement; Communication, advocacy and visibility; Sustainability and financing; Monitoring and accountability.

Objectives of the global consultation

This global consultation will gather all key stakeholders and partners towards one platform to discuss and finalize a course of action for implementing the WHA resolution on Global action on patient safety. The specific objectives of the global consultation are:

1. to define the vision, mission and scope of the Global Patient Safety Action Plan, for a roadmap for “A Decade for Patient Safety: 2020-2030”;
2. to define the guiding principles and strategic objectives;
3. to translate the operating paragraphs of the resolution into an operational plan. The operational plan will:
 - a. elaborate the list the actions for WHO, international organizations, Member States and health care facilities;
 - b. develop SMART global patient safety goals linked with the strategic objectives;
4. to seek input from all key stakeholders and partners on the draft Global Patient Safety Action Plan;
5. to define the time frames and responsibilities for various actions;
6. to discuss the resource mobilization plan for activities;
7. to develop an accountability and monitoring framework for the Global Patient Safety Action Plan; and
8. to develop the global campaign, including the theme and the slogan for World Patient Safety Day 2020.

Expected outcomes

1. A publication entitled: Theory of change for Global Action on Patient Safety.
2. Consensus among all participants on the Global Patient Safety Action Plan, Global patient safety goal and a resource mobilization plan.
3. A reporting and accountability mechanism.