

## Release

### IFHOH Applauds WHO Motion on the Prevention of deafness and hearing loss

May 30, 2017

The International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) is pleased that the General Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO) has adopted a resolution for a new action plan for the prevention of deafness and hearing loss at meetings in Geneva on May 30th. The last motion on the subject was adopted 22 years ago, in 1995.

“The WHO motion is important for our community as it shines a light on hard of hearing issues and calls upon nation states to undertake actions to improve conditions for persons with a hearing loss,” stated IFHOH President Dr. Ruth Warick.

“We applaud WHO for recognizing that a future action plan should raise awareness about this often ignored and debilitating condition. Hearing loss affects 360 million people worldwide, about one-third of all persons with disabilities,” she stated and added:

“We are encouraged that WHO recognizes that a range of access options must be available for individuals with hearing loss to reach their full potential, including captioning and hearing devices such as hearing aids and cochlear implants.”

For the WHO motion go to [http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/EB139/B139\\_R1-en.pdf?ua=1](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB139/B139_R1-en.pdf?ua=1)  
More information can be found at [http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA70/A70\\_34-en.pdf](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA70/A70_34-en.pdf)

IFHOH is an international, non-profit federation of hard of hearing people, which provides a platform for co-operation and information exchange among its members and interested parties. IFHOH, and the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH), work to promote greater understanding of hearing loss issues and to improve access for hard of hearing people. IFHOH is registered in Germany and has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

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