

## IFHOH Biennial General Meeting 2018

### Motion on Hearing Care

Whereas the Seventieth Health Assembly of the World Health Organization adopted a resolution on ear and hearing care in 2017, 22 years after an earlier resolution in 1995;

Whereas the resolution recognizes that 360 million people across the world live with disabling hearing loss, figures that have been updated by WHO as of this year to be 455 million people;

Whereas the magnitude of the problem of hearing loss, its economic and social implications are enormous and untreated hearing loss has a profound impact on individuals and their families;

Whereas adults with unaddressed hearing loss have higher unemployment rates than the rest of the population and among those employed, a higher percentage of people with hearing loss are in the lower grades of employment compared with the general workforce;

Whereas untreated ear infections are a common cause of hearing loss accounting for 60% of hearing loss in children, and much of this type of hearing loss can be ameliorated;

Whereas exposure to recreational noise poses a serious threat to hearing in adolescents and young adults, and safe hearing in all environments is essential;

Whereas WHO calls upon all member states to take action to:

- Raise awareness and build political commitment about the prevalence of hearing loss and its social and economic impact;
- Integrate strategies for ear and hearing care in healthcare systems;
- Improve data on ear diseases and hearing loss to inform policy decision-making;
- Develop human resources for ear and hearing care;
- Implement screening programmes;
- Provide access to hearing devices;
- Draft, adopt, and implement regulations for the control of ototoxic medicines;
- Raise awareness of noise-induced hearing loss and draft, adopt, and implement legislation for its prevention;
- Improve access to communication; and
- Deal with hearing loss in relation to UN 2030 Sustainable Development goals on health and education (Goals 3 and 4).

Whereas a report on progress on actions taken is expected before a future World Health Assembly;

Be it resolved that IFHOH and its members fully support the WHO Health Assembly resolution and call upon Nation States to undertake to implement the actions identified in the WHO motion; furthermore, IFHOH and its members serve notice that governments will be held accountable for improving hearing healthcare as well for preventing and reducing hearing loss.

Moved by the Board of IFHOH for adoption at the 2018 IFHOH Biennial Meeting.