

Release
IFHOH Supports WHO Motion on
the Prevention of deafness and hearing loss
May, 2017

The International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) is pleased that the General Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHO) will discuss a resolution for a new action plan for the prevention of deafness and hearing loss at meetings in Geneva 22-31 of May. The new motion will succeed the previous motion, WHA 48.9, adopted in 1995, 20 years ago.

The WHO motion has been in the making for several years and the motion is at http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB139/B139_R1-en.pdf?ua=1 and is accompanied by an explanatory document http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA70/A70_34-en.pdf.

Among actions identified at the country level are:

- Raise awareness and building political commitment
- Integrate strategies for ear and hearing care in the health care system and implement hearing screen programmes
- Improve data on ear diseases and hearing loss, to inform policy decision-making
- Develop human resources for ear and hearing care
- Provide access to hearing devices and captioning
- Regulate ototoxic medicine and reduce noise-induced hearing loss.

WHO is called upon to provide technical support to Member States, including advising on the provision of hearing aids and cochlear implants as well as continuing its advocacy and awareness-raising work, including its Make Listening Safe initiative.

IFHOH believes the new motion will give renewed impetus to addressing the causes and impact of hearing loss, an all too often silencing, devastating condition. IFHOH looks forward to working with WHO to implement the motion and IFHOH's member organizations look forward to working closely at the national government level for better hearing.

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). For more information please go to IFHOH's website www.ifhoh.org

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May 24, 2017