Specific proposals on amendments, additions and deletions to the text of
the draft overarching framework of engagement with non-State actors

Paragraph 22 should read as follows:

22. Managing conflict of interest and other risks of engagement requires a series of steps, as set out below.

• WHO needs to know the non-State actors that it engages with. Therefore each non-State actor is required to provide information about itself and its activities, following which WHO conducts the necessary due diligence, which will be audited by a group of twelve representatives of Member States (hereinafter, the Group). The Group will be composed of two representatives from each Regional Office. Each Regional Office will establish the mechanism for the selection of the representatives.

• WHO conducts a risk assessment in order to identify the specific risks of engagement associated with each engagement with a non-State actor, which will be audited by the Group.

• Risks of engagement need to be managed and communicated coherently throughout the Organization. To that end, WHO manages engagement through a single, Organization-wide electronic tool. (2 (footnote)). (The Secretariat should provide an explanation regarding this footnote. What “part” is the publicly visible part of the tool? What functions does the internal management of engagement involve?)

• Member States need to exercise oversight over WHO’s engagement with non-State actors. With this in mind, the Director-General reports on engagement involving non-State actors to the World Health Assembly through the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee and makes all engagements publicly known through the register of non-State actors.

Paragraph 27 should read as follows:

27. When the possibility of entering into an engagement is being considered, the relevant technical units in the Secretariat conduct an initial examination in order to establish whether such an engagement would be in the interest of the Organization and in line with the priorities defined in the General Programme of Work and Programme budget. If this seems to the case, the Secretariat asks the non-State actor to provide its basic information. Using the Organization-wide electronic tool, the technical units then complement this information with a description of the proposed engagement and the assessment of the benefits and risks involved.

Paragraph 28 should read as follows:
28. Before engaging with any non-State actor, technical units conduct due diligence. This refers to the steps taken to find and verify information on a non-State actor and to reach a basic understanding of its profile. While due diligence refers to the nature of the non-State actor concerned, risk assessment refers to the assessment of a specific proposed engagement with that non-State actor.

Paragraph 31 should read as follows:

31. Due diligence also allows technical units to categorize each non-State actor in relation to one of the four groups of non-State actors on the basis of its nature, objectives, governance, funding, independence and membership. This categorization is indicated in the register of non-State actors.

Paragraph 32 should read as follows:

32. Risks are the expression of the likelihood and potential impact of an event that would affect the Organization’s ability to achieve its objectives. A risk assessment on a proposed engagement is conducted in parallel to due diligence.

Paragraph 33 should read as follows:

33. Risk management concerns the process leading to a management decision on the part of the Secretariat, deciding on entry into engagement, continuation of engagement, engagement with measures to mitigate risks, non-engagement or disengagement from an existing or planned engagement with non-State actors on the basis of an explicit management decision. Risk management will be audited by the Group.

Paragraphs 34, 35 and 36 should be deleted.

Paragraph 44 should read as follows:

44. WHO does not engage with the tobacco or arms industries. In addition, WHO will exercise particular caution during the process of due diligence, risk assessment and management of risks with other industries affecting human health or affected by WHO’s norms and standards.

In the draft WHO policies and operational procedures on engagement with nongovernmental organizations, private sector entities, philanthropic foundations and academic institutions, all references to the possibility of WHO’s accepting secondments from the aforementioned non-State actors should be deleted. All such references clearly contradict paragraph 46 of the draft overarching framework of engagement with non-State actors, which stipulates: “46. WHO does not accept secondments from non-State actors.”