



WORLD FEDERATION
OF NEUROLOGY

WHO Brain Health Unit
By Email
April 7, 2021

On behalf of Prof William Carroll, President of the World Federation of Neurology (WFN), please find our initial submission for the Consultation on discussion paper for the Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders. This submission is comprised of a statement about the apparent discrepancies in alignment between the resolution and discussion plan, and includes suggestions for the vision and the goal.

This has been prepared by the WFN IGAP writing group comprising the following representatives:

WFN

Prof William Carroll, President
Prof Wolfgang Grisold, Secretary General
Prof Alla Gukht, Elected Trustee
Ms Kimberly Karlshoej, Strategy and Programme Director

International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society

Prof Claudia Trenkwalder, President

International Headache Society Global Advocacy Coalition

Prof David W. Dodick, President IHS-GAC

World Stroke Organisation

Prof Michael Brainin, Immediate Past President

Sincerely,

Kimberly Karlshoej

Selected Comments on three

key points in the Discussion Paper to support the development of the Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders 2022 – 2031.

WFN and partners

1. GENERAL COMMENT

The opportunity to build on epilepsy and other neurological disorders as the entry point to strengthen services for both

There appears to be **significant discrepancies** between the focus and intent of WHA 73.10 Resolution that was adopted during the November 2020 World Health Assembly (WHA).

WHO declared, in the 2019 Global Report on epilepsy that action to meet the needs of the 50 million people worldwide living with epilepsy should be considered a **'public health imperative'**. WHA Resolution 73.10 clearly singled out epilepsy as a disorder with an unacceptably high health and social burden in need of specific attention and linked it with other neurological disorders.

The Discussion Paper does not build on the proposal in the Resolution to optimize the prevention, treatment and care synergies that exist between epilepsy services and those for other neurological disorders. This second potentially **significant discrepancy** between the intent of the Resolution and what is being proposed in the Discussion Paper could lead to a **missed opportunity** to strengthen epilepsy services and utilize effectively synergies between **epilepsy and other neurological disorders** to improve the care and treatment of both.

2. VISION

The vision of the action plan is a world in which:

- i. Brain health is valued, promoted, protected and prioritized with strengthened governance for epilepsy and neurological disorders and with representation in national health policies, plans and budgets.

- ii. Epilepsy and other neurological disorders are prevented and treated avoiding deaths and disability and improving QOL through appropriate, affordable and quality services, essential medicines and ongoing research.
- iii. Social, economic and educational needs and freedom from discrimination for persons with epilepsy and other neurological disorders are prioritized and protected in legislation; such protection extending to families and caregivers.

3. GOAL

To reduce the stigma, impact and burden of epilepsy and other neurological disorders, including associated mortality and morbidity, by leveraging the prevention, treatment and care of epilepsy and neurological disorders as the entry point for improving the health, social services and quality of life of persons of all ages with neurological disorders.

