

# PLAN OF ACTION 2017-2021



WAS PRESIDENT and EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

## SUMMARY

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

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AASECT	American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists
AC	Advisory Committee
COST	European Cooperation in Science & Technology
EOs	Executive Officers
ESSM	European Society for Sexual Medicine
FIGO	International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics
IASR	International Academy of Sex Research
ILC	International Liaison Committee
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
ISSM	International Society for Sexual Medicine
MC	Media Committee
MEMC	Membership Committee
MESHC	Middle East Committee
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PCO	Association House
PP	Past Presidents
SC	Scientific Committee
SEC	Sexuality Education Committee
SRC	Sexual Rights Committee
SGT	Secretary General & Treasurer
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WAS	World Association for Sexual Health
WHO	World Health Organization
WPATH	World Professional Association for Transgender Health
YIC	Youth Initiative Committee

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## **POSITION OF THE WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR SEXUAL HEALTH (WAS)**

WAS is the world's largest umbrella organization in the field of sexual health /sexual rights, representing more than one hundred national societies, five regional federations representing the five continents, and several other global organizations, which in total represent thousands of individual members from a variety of disciplines. Moreover, WAS is a truly multidisciplinary organization. This global representation together with the multidisciplinary nature are the major strengths of WAS and constitute its unique distinctive characteristic. WAS is also the oldest global organization in the field of sexual health, born in 1978, has been mostly concerned with sexual health and rights across the globe. Our mission statement summarizes this vision, emphasizing that WAS "promotes sexual health throughout human life spans all over the world by developing, promoting and supporting sexology and sexual rights for all".

### **MAJOR GOALS**

#### **1. Leadership & Strategic Partnerships with Global Organizations**

WAS should actively assume its role as a major global organization and work to bring together all other global and major regional societies in order to develop common strategies to achieve its common mission goals. Therefore, a consistent policy of close relationship and partnership with other global organizations is needed, including encouraging mutual participation in major Congresses and meetings as well as establishing a regular global meeting (annually) to discuss and take actions around common goals. Moreover, initiating and strengthening of strategic partnerships with WHO, PAHO, UNFPA, UNESCO and other UN organizations, is crucial in pursuing these goals.

#### **Actions:**

1. Invite Global Organizations (WHO, PAHO, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNAIDS, IPPF, ISSM, WPATH, FIGO and others) to present regular symposia at WAS congresses.  
**Responsible:** Executive Officers (EOs), Scientific Committee (SC), International Liaison Committee (ILC), Sexual Rights Committee (SRC) and Sexuality Education Committee (SEC).
2. Promote regular WAS Symposia in Major Congresses in the field (WAS Federations Congresses in the five continents, ISSM, SSSS, AASECT, IASR and others).  
**Responsible:** EOs, SC, Associate Secretaries (AS), and Federations Presidents
3. Strive to develop a Global Coalition with major partners (WHO, PAHO, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNAIDS, IPPF, ISSM, WPATH and others) inviting them to meet annually and discuss common goals during the WAS or Federation Congresses.  
**Responsible:** EOs, ILC, SC, SRC and SEC.

4. Actively offer WAS to serve as official consultant (using the excellent diversity of specialized human resources within WAS) in major documents/guidelines related to sexual health/rights developed by global organisations in the field.

**Responsible:** EOs, ILC, SC, SRC, SEC and Advisory Committee (AC) members at large.

5. Propose the recognition of the WSHD by the major global partners (WHO, PAHO, UNFPA, UNESCO, UNAIDS, IPPF, ISSM, WPATH and others) and encourage them to actively participate and promote the WSHD.

**Responsible:** EOs, WSHD Committee, ILC, SC, SRC and SEC.

6. Propose the recognition of the WSHD as a UN official celebration day

**Responsible:** EOs, ILC and WSHD Committee.

7. Identify key persons in each organization and establish regular communication channels with them

**Responsible:** EOs, ILC, AS and Membership Committee.

## 2. Global Representation and Membership

WAS should strongly work towards increasing the global representation of society and individual members developing active strategies to encourage the welcome of new members (organizations and individual members) especially from under-represented regions such as Asia & Oceania, Central America and particularly Africa.

### Actions:

1. Strengthen the relationship between WAS and the Regional Federations and encourage all member societies of Regional Federations to become also WAS members and vice-versa (in case they are not yet).

**Responsible:** EOs, AS, Membership Committee (MEMC), and Federations Presidents.

2. Compile an exhaustive list of national societies and other organizations in the field that are not currently members of WAS, with special emphasis on under-represented regions (Africa, Asia & Oceania, Middle East, Eastern Europe, Central & North America) and invite them to become WAS members.

**Responsible:** EOs, AS and MEMC.

3. Actively promote WAS (both with info, WAS symposia) at the major Regional Conferences (mainly in under-represented regions such as Africa, Oceania, Middle East) and establish contacts with the most representative societies and individuals encouraging them to become WAS members.

**Responsible:** EOs, AS, MEMC, Middle East Committee (MESH) and Youth Initiative Committee (YIC)

4. Develop a strong strategy to attract individuals to become WAS members (advertising benefits, congress reduction, free journal, networking, World Database on Sexual Health, etc.)  
**Responsible:** EOs, MEMC and Media Committee (MC).
5. Increase student membership with a special reduced fee and develop specific projects to attract actively young people (students, young professionals and researchers).  
**Responsible:** EOs, YIC and MEMC,

### 3. Global Awareness

WAS should develop a consistent strategy to increase its global recognition and awareness across the globe. The promotion of the WAS 40 anniversary during 2018, the World Sexual Health Day, Youth initiatives, and the release of relevant position statements on key aspects of sexual health & rights play a central role in disseminating WAS' mission and goals. Also, a clear communication and media strategy is fundamental in order to make WAS major positions known worldwide.

#### **Actions:**

1. Develop an ambitious and integrated program to celebrate WAS 40 anniversary during 2018 with activities that bring wider awareness and recognition. The program may include: celebration at all Federation Congresses, symposia at federation congresses and other major conferences (e.g., ISSM, SSSS, AASECT), special session in Rome in October, WSHD during September, WAS short promotion video and Power point presentation, WAS leaflets, anniversary logo, etc. A strong media plan to disseminate the program and main activities should be developed.  
**Responsible:** EOs, MC, Secretary General & Treasurer (SGT), Past Presidents (PP) and AC members at large
2. Increase the global awareness and impact of the World Sexual Health Day. This may include the involvement of other major global organizations (see above), the increase of countries and regional organizations involved in the celebration, the recognition by national governments and ultimately by the UN as official celebration day. Moreover, a very ambitious communication plan should be developed to increase the media visibility of the WSHD, with a press release to be sent to a list of major media outlets globally and locally.  
**Responsible:** EOs, WSHD Committee and MC.
3. Global Dissemination of the main WAS documents (Sexual Rights Declaration, Fulfil) and major Position Statements. This may include the establishment of partnerships with other global and regional organizations (co-participation in major documents, co-signed statements or mutual advertise of statements). Moreover, the Media Committee should prepare a strategy to increase the global awareness and impact of the WAS major documents and position statements including preparing press release to be sent to a list of major media outlets globally and locally.  
**Responsible:** EOs, SRC, SEC, ILC and MC.

4. Renovate the WAS Website and develop a strategy to significantly increase the impact of the WAS social media networks (Facebook, LinkedIn and others social networks). In addition, the development of a service channel for members, institutions and people who need WAS actions with information that is meaningful, as well as discussion forums will contribute to attract attention.

**Responsible:** EOs, SGT, MC and Association House (PCO).

#### 4. Financial Sources

WAS should diversify its financial sources of support. Developing excellent quality and attractive congresses may increase attendance and final income, as well as facilitate new membership applications. Also, systematically developing within congress workshops with world experts (with extra fee) as well as extending the possibility of offering participation online to the WAS Congresses using the most updated technologies would considerably increase the income. Another option would be to develop between congresses online advanced training programs in the main topics of sexual health and sexual rights for professionals across the world. WAS should also actively search and apply for available grants both at a global and regional level (UN, UNESCO, WHO, EU, Ford Foundation, COST and others funds or specialized agencies.), that are in line with its major goals and mission. Besides these strategies, WAS should also actively find financial support from individuals, foundations, corporations, and governments that share the same willingness to work towards sexual health and rights. Financial flow tracking routines should be properly recorded and audited internally and externally.

**Responsible:** EOs, SGT, ILC, PCO, MEMC, SC, SEC and Finance Committee.

#### 5. Specific Projects

##### **World Database on Sexual Health**

The project of the World Database on Sexual Health was created in 2010 under the auspices of the WAS scientific committee with the main goals of creating and storing a database/archive of all available scientific literature in the main topics of sexual health (sexual behavior, sexual problems, sexual education, HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, sexual rights, sexual aggression, sexual health and well-being). During the years, several students under the supervision of Pedro Nobre identified and collected more than 25.000 published scientific articles. In 2014 WAS reached an agreement with The University of Porto to store the World Database of Sexual Health. The Database might be accessible online and WAS members will have access to full texts upon request. The process of integrating the manuscripts on the online archive (stored at the Porto University online library) has started in September 2014 and is still ongoing (Human resources limitations have prevented the process to move faster).

**Responsible:** EOs, President and Porto University

**Handbook of Sexual Health & Sexual Rights**

The project was proposed by the Scientific Committee (Chaired by Alain Giami) and is aimed at developing a handbook of sexual health and sexual rights to help establishing the field and become a world reference and keystone.

**Responsible:** EOs, SC and AC members at large.

**World Observatory of Sexual Health & Sexual Rights**

The project is aimed at promoting the development of evidence-based knowledge regarding the situation of sexual health and sexual rights topics across the world. The objective is to collect existent data and/or implement comparable studies on a variety of key dimensions of sexuality (e.g., sexual behaviour, sexual problems, sexuality education, HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, sexual rights, sexual aggression, sexual health and well-being) across different countries worldwide. This project should be developed in partnership with other major global organizations (WHO, IPPF, UNAIDS and others) and could be used to also attract funding from agencies (UN, UNESCO, WHO, EU, Ford Foundation, COST and others funds or specialized agencies).

**Responsible:** EOs, SC, ILC and AC members at large.