

WHO 136th Executive Board Session – 26 January – 3 February 2015

**Statement in support of [EB136/10](#)
Update on the WHO Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity**

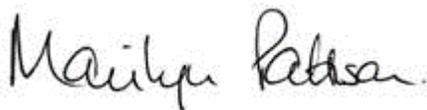
The World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) offers strong support for the initiatives being established by the WHO related to NCDs, particularly obesity. These strategies will ensure the necessary attention and commitment by member states to these complex problems that affect all aspects of society.

Recent evidence linking obesity with adverse health outcomes and identification of biopsychosocial complexities leading to obesity has defined this condition as a serious, chronic disease with close inter-relationships with diabetes and cardio-vascular disease. Developing strategies to deal with obesity early in the life course is a key approach to minimizing ever-increasing problems later on. Access to occupational therapy services contributing to obesity prevention, treatment and management fits well with access to occupational therapy services across the identified range of NCDs.

Strategies that target healthy active living for the prevention of obesity address personal, social, economic, physical and environmental factors. Occupational therapy focuses on the transactions between these multiple facets of life. Barriers between these elements in the case of interventions for obesity problems present difficult dilemmas for those living with these problems as well as those assisting to alleviate them. Occupational therapists focus on active living, in partnership with healthy eating, as being central to working with individuals living with obesity.

The WFOT recognizes the importance of widespread consultation in such universal matters. The establishment of a timetable of hearings and consultations is an excellent structure through which to communicate the commonalities and differences between approaches taken by member states in embracing global findings and tailoring them to fit local circumstances. WFOT would welcome the opportunity to become an active partner in helping to make this happen.

This statement is submitted on behalf of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists.



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21 January 2015