WORLD FEDERATION OF HEMOPHILIA
FÉDÉRATION MONDIALE DE L'HÉMOPHILIE
FEDERACIÓN MUNDIAL DE HEMOFILIA

29 January 2026

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General
World Health organization (WHO)
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva, Switzerland

Subject: Open Letter to WHO Director-General in support of the WHA Resolution on Global Action to Advance Health Equity for People with Hemophilia and Other Bleeding Disorders

Dear Dr. Tedros,

The World Federation of Hemophilia — joined by 76 international, regional and national patient and scientific societies—are coming together for the World Federation of Hemophilia's (WFH) **Global Call for Health Equity for Bleeding Disorders**. We are therefore writing to Your Excellency to express our strong support for the draft Member State-led resolution on **Global Action to Advance Health Equity for People with Hemophilia and Other Bleeding Disorders**. We understand that this draft resolution is being discussed at the upcoming 158th session of the WHO Executive Board from February 2 to 7, 2026, led by the Republic of Armenia, and co-sponsored by Bosnia & Herzegovina, Egypt, Georgia, Iraq, Latvia, Malta, Morocco, Nepal, Paraguay, Spain, Sri Lanka and Togo.

Our view, and that of our co-signatories, is that this resolution addresses many of the key challenges that people living with hemophilia and other bleeding disorders continue to face globally, caused primarily by inequitable access to diagnosis, treatment and care. Close to 70% of the estimated people living with hemophilia worldwide, remain undiagnosed.[1,2] People with von Willebrand disease (VWD) (estimated prevalence of 1 in 1,000 individuals), are also significantly underdiagnosed.[3] Studies have also shown a median diagnostic delay of up to ten years for women and girls.

Today, many safe and efficacious therapeutic products are available. However, they remain inaccessible to most people with bleeding disorders. As a result,

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[1] Iorio A, et al. Establishing the male prevalence and prevalence at birth of hemophilia. A meta-analytic approach using national registries. Ann Intern Med. 2019
[2] World Federation of Hemophilia Report on the Annual Global Survey 2024
[3] Connell NT, et al. ASH ISTH NHF WFH 2021 guidelines on the management of von Willebrand disease. Blood Adv. 2021

people with these conditions continue to suffer from chronic joint damage, pain, disability, reduced quality of life, and premature death. The burden of disease is also reflected in the increased use of healthcare resources, placing significant strain on health systems that are often already under-resourced. Prophylactic treatment and home therapy have been established as the global standard of care for people with severe hemophilia. International clinical guidelines recommend offering prophylactic treatment because it helps relieve the burden on health systems by decreasing the need for hospitalizations and for the management of complications which result from delayed treatment.[4] Furthermore, women and girls with bleeding disorders are at risk of serious health complications, including an increased risk of complications during pregnancy and childbirth, increased maternal and infant mortality, as well as an increased risk of anemia and iron deficiency.[5]

We commend the Member States that have been leading the discussions on this draft resolution. Their efforts recognize these health inequities, and their proposed adoption of the resolution represents a vital step in creating a coordinated global framework by the WHO and Member States to ensure that people living with hemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders are no longer left behind.

We acknowledge the challenging environment that the WHO is currently operating in—but we are firm believers in the crucial role that WHO plays globally, and its importance on the world stage. Therefore, we call upon the WHO and its Member States to continue to remain committed to the WHO mission and mandate of setting global health priorities and steering the global health policy direction, in service of promoting, providing and protecting health for all. In this regard, we believe that the draft resolution initiative is closely aligned with the **WHO 14th General Programme of Work (2025-2028)**, particularly the second goal on **providing health**. We note that this initiative is also closely aligned with the **UN Member States' Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage**, the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** and the **Political declaration of the 3rd High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases**.

The WFH—as a non-state actor in official relations with the WHO—and the co-signatories of the Global Call for Health Equity for Bleeding Disorders strongly

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[4] Srivastava A, et al. WFH Guidelines for the Management of Hemophilia, 3rd edition. Haemophilia. 2020

[5] Hermans C, Kulkarni R, Women with Bleeding Disorders. Haemophilia. 2018

support this milestone initiative, and we are honoured to join our voice to those of the leading Member States to advocate for its positive consideration.

Thank you for your steadfast leadership and continued commitment to advancing global health equity.

Sincerely,

Cesar Garrido WFH President	Alain Bauman WFH Chief Executive Officer

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Cc: Dr. Razia Pendse, Chief of Staff/Chef de Cabinet

Dr. Yukiko Nakatani, Assistant Director-General, Health Systems, Access and Data

Dr. Jeremy Farrar, Assistant Director-General, Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Care

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The 76 organizations that have joined the **WFH's Global Call for Health Equity for Bleeding Disorders** in support of the WHA Resolution Global Action to Advance Health Equity for People with Hemophilia and Other Bleeding Disorders, as of January 29, 2026, are the following:

- European Association for Haemophilia and Allied Disorders
- European Haemophilia Consortium
- International Society for Thrombosis and Haemostasis
- Latin American Collaborative Group for Hemostasis and Thrombosis (Grupo CLAHT)
- Armenian Association of Hemophilia and Thrombophilia
- Asociación Costarricense de Hemofilia
- Asociación de Hemofilicos Unidos del Paraguay
- Asociación Venezolana para la hemofilia
- Association Béninoise des hémophiles
- Association Congo Démocratique des Hémophiles
- Association Guinéenne de Lutte contre l'Hémophilie et autres Maladies Hémorragiques (AGUILHAMH)

- Association Libanaise de l'Hemophilie
- Association Malienne de lutte contre l'hémophilie et les autres coagulophathies (AMALHLEC)
- Association pour le Bien Être des Hémophiles à Madagascar
- Association Sénégalaise des hémophiles
- Association Togolaise de L'Hémophilie
- Association Tunisienne de l'Hémophilie
- Botswana Inherited Bleeding Disorders Association
- Canadian Hemophilia Society
- HEMOLOG (North Macedonia)
- Croatian Haemophilia Society
- Deutsche Hämophiliegesellschaft (DHG)
- Egyptian Society of Hemophilia
- Ethiopian Hemophilia Society
- Federação Brasileira de Hemofilia
- Federacion de Hemofilia de la República Mexicana
- Federación Española de Hemofilia
- French Hemophilia Association
- Frontiers for Hemophilia and Bleeding Disorders Sierra Leone
- Fundacion Apoyo Al Hemofilico (Dominican Republic)
- Fundación Panameña De Hemofilia
- Fundacion Salvadoreña de Hemofilia
- Georgian Association of Hemophilia and Donorship
- Ghana Hemophilia Society
- Haemophilia Association of Lesotho
- Haemophilia Association of Mauritius
- Haemophilia Association of Sri Lanka
- Haemophilia Foundation Australia
- Haemophilia Foundation of Uganda
- Haemophilia New Zealand
- Hemophilia Federation (India)
- Hemophilia Foundation (Pakistan)
- Hemophilia Society of Bangladesh
- Hemophilia Society of Malaysia

- Iranian Society of Hemophilia
- Irish Haemophilia Society
- Jordan Thalassemia and Hemophilia Society
- Kenya Haemophilia Association
- Kosovo Hemophilia Foundation (KOHA F NGO)
- L'Association des Hémophiles du Burkina Faso
- Latvia Hemophilia Society
- Libyan Association of Hemophilia
- Liga Colombiana de hemofílicos y otras deficiencias sanguíneas
- Liga dos amigos dos doentes hematologicos de Angola (LADHA)
- Mongolian National Association of Hemophilia
- Myanmar Haemophilia Patient's Association
- National Bleeding Disorders Foundation
- National Hemophilia Network of Japan
- Nepal Hemophilia Society
- ONG Internationale hémophilie et autres maladies de la coagulation du sang (IHMS) Côte d'Ivoire
- Pakistan Society of Hematology (PSH)
- Rwanda Fraternity against Hemophilia (RFH)
- Safe motherhood and hemophilia foundation The Gambia
- Serbian Haemophilia Society
- Sociedad Chilena de la Hemofilia
- Sociedad Cubana de Hemofilia
- Sociedad Hondureña de Hemofilia
- Society for Inherited and Severe Blood Disorders Trinidad and Tobago (SISBDTT)
- Society of Haemophilia and Allied Disorders (SHAD) Malawi
- Solidarite Burundaise Contre L'Hemophilie
- South African Haemophilia Foundation
- Surinaamse Stichting voor Hemofilie Patienten (SSHP- Suriname Hemophilia Society)
- Swedish Bleeding Disorder Society
- UK Haemophilia Society
- Ukrainian Hemophilia Association
- Zimbabwe Haemophilia Association