

## **Terms and conditions for WHO collaborating centres**

The following terms and conditions are agreed by the proposed institutions when submitting a proposal in eCC.

- 1. The general conditions of becoming a WHO collaborating centre**
- 2. Use of the WHO name, emblem and flag**
- 3. Intellectual property**
- 4. Interaction of WHO collaborating centres with industry and private sector in general**
- 5. Research**
- 6. Guideline development**
- 7. Other Conditions**

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Definitions and notes

Unless otherwise stated, for the purpose of this document,

- the term "institution" means the part (e.g. department, division, unit, etc.) of the institution (e.g. university, research institute, hospital or academy) or Government that is being proposed for re/designation. Example: Department of Microbiology of the University of ABC...

- the term "WHO CC" means the institution designated as a WHO collaborating centre while performing the agreed terms of reference and work plan with WHO (as opposed to the institution performing other activities outside the agreed terms of reference and workplan). Example: Department of Microbiology of the University of ABC... when working on two activities included in their designation form and agreed with WHO.

A WHO CC is not a legal entity. The legal entity which controls and is responsible for the WHO CC is the institution or the ministry, academy, university, established research institute or hospital of which the institution forms part.

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Through the signature of this form, a duly authorized representative of the institution proposed for (re)designation as a WHO CC (hereafter referred as "the head of the proposed WHO CC"), hereby accepts and agrees on behalf of the institution to comply with the following terms and conditions, in the event the proposal for re/designation is approved by WHO:

## 1. General conditions

Upon designation, the designated institution will be responsible for:

- (a) implementing the agreed plan of work in a timely manner and to the highest possible standards of quality;
- (b) bringing to the attention of the WHO responsible officer any issue that can delay or compromise the implementation of the workplan, and/or any change in the information provided in this form;
- (c) submitting annual progress reports via eCC on the anniversary of the designation date and as may be requested by WHO;
- (d) initiating discussions with the responsible officer at WHO at least six months prior to the expiration of the period of designation, with a view to evaluating any possible re-designation of the WHO CC.

## 2. Use of the WHO name, emblem and flag

As a general rule, a WHO CC may obtain permission to use WHO's name and emblem<sup>1</sup> only in relation to an activity included in the agreed work plan (as opposed to other activities that the institution may conduct outside the workplan). Use of the WHO name and/or emblem requires the prior approval of the WHO Director General on a case by case basis. Any authorization for use of the WHO name and emblem is granted only for the purpose for which such authorization has been requested and automatically comes to an end upon completion of the said purpose or expiration of the period of designation of the WHO CC, whichever occurs first.

To obtain permission to use WHO's name and/or emblem in relation to an activity from the work plan, the WHO CC should contact their responsible officer at WHO with a justification and a *mock-up of the proposed use* in line with the conditions set forth below.

### General considerations

- (a) the WHO emblem and/or name should never be used in isolation. Instead, the exact title of the WHO CC (hereafter referred to as the "title"), as indicated in the official letter of designation and registered in the WHO CC global database (e.g. "WHO Collaborating Centre for Occupational Health") should be used, rather than the WHO name alone. If the WHO emblem is also to be used, it may only be placed directly next to the title;
- (b) The title (and emblem) should be discreetly used (and both have a similar size), and placed immediately underneath the name of the (relevant part

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<sup>1</sup> Emblem and logo are different things. The WHO logo incorporates the WHO emblem and the name of the Organization in a single design. Normally, WHO CCs are not allowed to use the WHO logo. Instead, they may be authorized to use the WHO emblem and title of their designation as a WHO CC following the rules stated in this document.

of the) designated institution, which should have a more prominent position;

- (c) The characters of the title must be smaller than the characters of the name of the designated institution (or relevant part thereof), e.g. "WHO Collaborating Centre for Occupational Health" must be typed in smaller characters than "School of Occupational Health, ABC University".
- (d) All words in the title must be of the same font size, e.g. "WHO" may not be larger than "Collaborating Centre for Occupational Health".
- (e) If, in addition to the title, the WHO emblem is to be used, the emblem of the designated institution should also be used, and the former should be of smaller size than the latter.



#### Example 1



#### Example 2

(f) If the language used by the WHO CC is not one of the official languages of the World Health Organization (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish), or in case of designation by a WHO Regional Office, one of the official languages used by that regional office, then the WHO CC must also use one of those official languages .

### 2. 1 Use of the WHO name and emblem on letterheads

Subject to the general rule and considerations stated above, a WHO CC may use its official title and the WHO emblem on letterheads for correspondence related to the agreed activities.

## 2. 2 Use of the WHO name and emblem on a dedicated webpage

Subject to the general rule and considerations stated above, and the additional conditions stated below, a WHO CC may use its official title and the WHO emblem on a dedicated WHO CC webpage.

Before submitting the request for permission, the responsible officer at WHO should receive a draft webpage from the WHO CC to ensure that:

- (a) the WHO emblem is not used on the main webpage of the designated institution (or part thereof). Instead, a discreet reference to the designation of the institution as a WHO CC may be included in the webpage of the institution, and that reference could be linked to a separate page fully dedicated to the activities of the institution as a WHO CC;
- (b) the proposed webpage is in accordance with the terms of reference and workplan of the WHO CC, i.e. it only refers to the activities of the institution in its capacity as a WHO CC as described in the terms of reference and workplan;
- (c) the content of the proposed webpage is acceptable to WHO from a technical and scientific point of view;
- (d) if any financial support from the private sector is to be received for the development of the webpage, this has to be consistent with the rules on interaction of WHO collaborating centres with the commercial private sector including in respect of the manner in which contributors are acknowledged.



Fig. 1. main page of the Department of Microbiology of the University ABC.



**Fig. 2. page within the website of the Department of Microbiology of the University ABC, especially dedicated to the activities in its capacity as a WHO CC for Diphtheria and Streptococcal Infections.**

### **2. 3 Use of the WHO name and emblem on brochures, presentations and published material**

Such use is subject to the general rule and considerations stated above and to a case by case approval by WHO.

### **2. 4 Flag**

A WHO CC may submit a request for time limited use of a WHO flag at specific occasions (e.g. World Health Day). Such a request should be submitted to the WHO responsible officer. Approval, if granted, will be subject to the WHO CC displaying the flag in conformity with the WHO Flag Code and Regulations (sent along with the flag). At the end of the specific occasion for which approval has been granted, the flag must immediately be returned to the Organization.

### **2. 5 Business or visiting cards**

The use of WHO's name or emblem on business or visiting cards of the staff members of the WHO CC is not allowed in any circumstance.

### **2. 6 Plaques**

WHO does not normally authorize the use of plaques bearing its name and emblem by WHO CCs.

### **2. 7 Training diplomas and certificates**

The WHO name and emblem may not be used on certificates of attendance, diplomas or similar awards to participants in training or other courses organized as part of a WHO CC's workplan.

### 3. Intellectual property

This applies to the deliverables (outcomes) of the activities included in the workplan.

Summary table	<b>Product of the WHO CC,</b> and therefore WHO CC owns IP and gives licence to WHO	<b>WHO product,</b> and therefore WHO owns IP and gives WHO CC a licence
<b>Copyright</b> (publications)	3.1.1	3.1.2
<b>Patents</b> (other type of deliverables)	3.2.1	3.2.2

#### 3.1 Copyright

**3.1.1** As a rule, a product produced by the WHO CC as part of the agreed workplan and published under the institution's own name is the sole responsibility of the institution, and copyright will be vested in the institution, unless otherwise agreed. WHO is automatically granted a perpetual and irrevocable, non-exclusive, world-wide, royalty-free, sub-licensable right to use, change, adapt, translate, publish and disseminate such work product in any manner and in any format in conjunction with the work of WHO. Any adaptation, translation, publication (including in scientific journals) and dissemination to be made by either party will be coordinated between them in order to avoid overlap. The institution will not publish in the name of WHO, nor use its title as a WHO CC and/or the WHO emblem in the product (book, article in a journal, etc), unless this has been specifically agreed with WHO, in which case the work product is subject to a special WHO's publication clearance procedures. In no case shall the name of WHO (either as an acronym or in full text) be used in the title of these products. If granted, the permission to publish in the name of WHO and/or use the title as a WHO CC and/or the WHO emblem ceases automatically upon termination or expiry of the institution's designation as a WHO CC.

**3.1.2** However, if a work product is to be developed by the WHO CC as a WHO product as part of the agreed workplan, then the copyright of such work product will automatically be vested in WHO, unless WHO requests otherwise. The institution (as a WHO CC) will be appropriately acknowledged for its contribution in connection with the product. WHO retains the right to amend the work product after consultation with the institution, to decide if and how the work product will be used and whether or not it will be published and disseminated. At the institution's request, WHO will give good faith consideration to granting the institution a non-exclusive, world-wide, royalty-free right to use, translate, adapt, publish and disseminate such work product as part of its agreed workplan as a WHO CC, or to use it for the development of other work products as foreseen in the WHO CC terms of reference. Any adaptation, translation and publication (including in scientific journals) and dissemination will be coordinated with and requires the agreement of WHO in order to avoid overlap. Any licence granted by WHO will terminate automatically upon termination or expiry of the institution's designation as a WHO CC.

## 3.2 Patents

**3.2.1** Unless otherwise agreed by the parties in writing, the ownership of any inventions, know-how, data and information and other results arising from any other study or trial carried out by the WHO CC, if exceptionally agreed as part of the workplan (see section 5 below) shall be vested in the institution, in accordance with and subject to the terms set forth below (unless otherwise agreed):

- (a) The results of the project may be freely used or disclosed by either party provided that, without the consent the other party, no use may be made for commercial purposes and confidentiality shall be maintained with respect to results that may be eligible for protection by proprietary rights. The institution will provide WHO with the results, in the form of relevant know-how and other information, and to the extent feasible, tangible products.
- (b) The industrial or commercial exploitation of any intellectual property rights, including the ownership of know-how, arising from the project shall be designed to achieve, in so far as circumstances permit, the following objectives in the following order of priority:
  - I. the general availability of the products of creative activity;
  - II. the availability of those products to the public health sector on preferential terms, particularly in developing countries;
  - III. the grant to each party of additional benefits, including royalties, account being taken of the relative value of each party's financial, intellectual and other contributions to the research.
- (c) The rights referred to above shall belong to the institution, or to the principal investigator if the institution and WHO so agree. To the extent that the former do not intend to exercise them, the rights shall be promptly transferred to WHO, if it so requests. Each party shall provide the other with its full cooperation to permit the effective exercise of the rights. The party in which the corresponding rights are vested may file applications for industrial property protection, promptly furnishing copies of the applications and other patent documents to the other party. All rights other than the right to file applications shall be exercised in accordance with an agreement which shall be negotiated in good faith between the institution and WHO.
- (d) In any publication by the institution or the principal investigator relating to the results of the project, the responsibility for the direction of the work shall not be ascribed to WHO. Unless WHO advises otherwise, all publications shall include a notice indicating that the underlying investigation was carried out by the Institution as a WHO CC. Two off-prints or copies shall be sent to WHO unless another number is stipulated.

**3.2.2** However, the ownership of any inventions, know-how, data and information and other results arising from any study or trial carried out by the WHO CC as part of the agreed workplan, as a WHO study or trial, shall be

vested in WHO and shall be held by the institution in confidence and not be used by it in any way without the prior written agreement of WHO.

### **3.3 Generic clause**

In the absence of any different provision included in the designation form, any deliverable of any activity included in the designation form subject to copyrights will be ruled by paragraph 3.1.1, and any deliverable of any activity included in the designation form subject to patent rights will be ruled by paragraph 3.2.1.

## **4. Interaction of WHO collaborating centres with private sector entities in general**

Designation of an institution as a WHO CC is independent from any kind of financial support from WHO. In most cases, the WHO CC will be expected to cover the costs of the agreed activities through the core budget of the institution and if necessary, by mobilizing additional extra-budgetary resources. This does not prevent WHO from contributing financially in some cases, provided that funds are available and obligated for that purpose.

In order to safeguard the credibility, independence and objectivity of the work conducted by an institution as a WHO CC, WHO seeks to ensure that the interactions which this institution may have with private sector entities do not give rise to any real or perceived conflicts of interest in respect of the work of the WHO CC or compromise its reputation.

Private sector entities are defined for the purposes of this document as commercial enterprises i.e. businesses that are intended to make a profit for their owners. The term also refers to entities that represent, or are governed or controlled by, private sector entities. This definition includes but is not limited to:

- (a) business associations representing commercial enterprises;
- (b) entities not at "arms' length" from their commercial sponsors; and
- (c) partially or fully State-owned commercial enterprises acting like private sector entities.

An entity is "at arms' length" from another entity if it is financially and organizationally independent from the other entity, does not take instructions, and is not influenced or not reasonably perceived to be influenced in its decisions, activities, mandate and work by the other entity.

Below are examples of the types of interaction that may give rise to a real or perceived conflict of interest in respect of the work of the WHO CC. Before the (re)designation of an institution as a WHO CC, the institution must:

- ascertain whether it and/or its staff responsible for the WHO CC activities are engaged in any interaction with private sector entities



- (particularly in respect of any activities that fall within the WHO CC's terms of reference and/or work plan); and
- if so, provide details thereof to WHO (including in particular, details about the identity of the private sector entities in question, their business interests, and the activities, research and/or staff at the WHO CC which are concerned by the interaction).

Should WHO consider that an interaction gives rise to the risk of a real or perceived conflict of interest, or is considered as compromising its reputation every effort should be made to reach a mutually acceptable solution, consistent with the guidance provided in this section. In the event no such solution can be found, WHO will not be able to proceed with the proposed (re)designation of the institution as a WHO CC.

#### **4.1 Funding or other support from private sector entities with incompatible business activities**

WHO does not engage with the tobacco industry or entities that work to further the interests of the tobacco industry, and also does not engage with the arms industry. The institution should not accept funding or other support (e.g. in kind or through secondment of employees) from such private sector entities nor from non-State actors that work to further the interests of the tobacco industry. This applies to both the activities of the institution as a WHO CC and any other activities of the institution as a whole.

#### **4.2 Funding or other support from companies with a direct commercial interest**

The WHO CC should not accept funding or other support (e.g. in kind) from a private sector entity, if the entity in question has, or may be perceived as having, a direct commercial interest in the outcome of that activity. For example, funds or other support should not be accepted from a manufacturer of insulin for an activity which (even generically) relates to the treatment of diabetes.

#### **4.3 Funding or other support from private sector entities with indirect commercial interest**

A WHO CC should exercise caution in accepting financing or other support from a private sector entity that has even an indirect interest in the outcome of an activity (e.g. in the case of an activity relating to the epidemiology of a disease, caution should be exercised in accepting funds or other support from a manufacturer of drugs for the disease). In such cases, it is preferable to secure funding from multiple competing sources (i.e. so as to avoid a perceived close association with one particular entity). In addition, the larger the proportion of the donation from any one source, the greater care that should be taken to avoid the possibility of a conflict of interest or appearance of an inappropriate association with one contributor.

#### **4.4 Unspecified support**

In the event of an unspecified donation from a private sector entity for the activities of a WHO CC in general (and not designated for a specific activity), the institution should ensure that the following are complied with.

- (a) The donation should not be used to support activities in which the private sector entity has a direct commercial interest (see paragraph 4.2. above). In the event it is intended to use the donation to support activities in which the private sector entity has an indirect commercial interest, donations should be sought from various sources having a similar interest; and it is preferable that support from multiple competing sources is secured (see paragraph 4.3 above). The larger the proportion of the donation from any one source, the greater the care that should be taken to avoid the possibility of a conflict of interest or appearance of an inappropriate association with one contributor.
- (b) The overall amount of unspecified support provided by the private sector entity should not be so large that the WHO CC would become dependent on support from a single entity, or group of entities, for its continued operations.

#### **4.5 Support for activities related to the production of WHO guidelines or recommendations**

As a general rule, a WHO CC should not accept any funds or other support from private sector entities (regardless of their business interests) for activities related to the production of WHO guidelines or recommendations. The reason for this is that WHO's normative and standard setting work should be free from commercial concerns.

#### **4.6 Funding to support the salary of specific staff or posts and secondment of employees from private sector entities**

Further, a WHO CC should not accept funds from private sector entities to support the salary of specific staff or posts designated to the activities of the WHO CC (including short-term consultants), if the financial support could give rise to a real or perceived conflict of interest. For example, a conflict of interest would arise if the responsibilities of the staff member or post are directly or indirectly related to the business interests of the commercial contributor.

Similarly, a WHO CC should not accept the secondment of employees from a private sector entity to work on the activities of the WHO CC, if the entity has a direct or indirect commercial interest in all or part of those activities.

#### **4.7 Commissioned research or other work**

The activities which an institution conducts as a WHO CC (as part of the WHO CC's terms of reference and/or work plan) should not include any research or other work commissioned by industry. In other words, WHO CCs should not, as such, perform research or other work which is contracted by private sector entities.

#### **4.8 Declaration of the interests of the director and other responsible staff**

The institution should ensure and attest to WHO that the director and staff designated to work on the activities of the WHO CC do not have any interactions, affiliations or relations with and/or financial or other interests in private sector entities (as defined above) that could give rise to, or be seen as giving rise to, a conflict of interest in respect of any of these activities.

In the event that the WHO CC director and/or staff have any interactions, affiliations, relations and/or financial or other interests that could give rise to a real or perceived conflict in respect of any of the activities of the WHO CC, the institution should take appropriate measures to address and remove such conflicts. Examples of the type of interactions, affiliations, relations and financial or other interests that could give rise to, or be seen as giving rise to, a conflict of interest, can be found in the Declaration of Interest (DOI) for WHO experts, which can be found at [http://www.who.int/collaboratingcentres/Declaration\\_of\\_Interests.pdf](http://www.who.int/collaboratingcentres/Declaration_of_Interests.pdf). The WHO DOI is not, however, intended for use by the institution. The institution should make its own arrangements to ascertain, address and remove any possible conflicts which the WHO CC director and/or staff may have.

#### **4.9 Information to be provided to WHO**

In light of the above, before an institution can be (re)designated as a WHO CC, the head of the proposed WHO CC must ascertain whether:

- (a) the institution receives funding or other support from private sector entities whose business activities are incompatible with WHO's work (such as, for example, tobacco companies);
- (b) the institution, as part of the work plan of the WHO CC, will conduct:
  - activities that are funded or otherwise supported by private sector entities as defined above; and/or
  - research or other work commissioned by industry; and/or
- (c) the institution receives funding to support the salary of specific staff or posts at, and/or the secondment of employees from private sector entities for, the WHO CC.

In the affirmative, the institution should provide details (in the relevant sections of the re/designation form) about the identity of the contributors in question, their business interests, and the activities, research, staff and/or posts concerned, as well as any other information and/or clarification which WHO may reasonably require.

In addition, the head of the proposed WHO CC must ascertain whether the director and/or staff designated to work on the activities of the WHO CC have any interactions, affiliations or relations with and/or financial or other interests in private sector entities which could give rise to a real or perceived

conflict in respect of any of the activities of the WHO CC. In the affirmative, the institution must take appropriate measures to address and remove such conflicts.

The institution is required to attest to WHO that:

- the director and staff designated to work on the activities of the WHO CC have been required to declare any such interactions, affiliations, relations and financial or other interests; and that
- either no conflicts exist, or appropriate measures have been taken to address and remove them.

#### **4.10 Evaluation by WHO and agreement on possible measures to be taken**

The institution must make every effort to provide all relevant and potentially relevant information to WHO for evaluation, and where needed, to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution, consistent with the guidance provided in this section. For example, activities that give rise to a conflict of interest as described above or that have been commissioned by industry, will need to be deleted from the work plan, in order for a (re)designation to be approved. Similarly, WHO CC staff who have declared an interaction, affiliation, relation and/or financial or other interest in a private sector entity that gives rise to a real or perceived conflict in respect of any activity of the WHO CC will need to be recused from working on that activity.

With respect to those contributions from private sector entities which are deemed acceptable, the WHO CC should -for reasons of transparency- always make a public acknowledgement. The basic and most common approach is to insert a discreet acknowledgement in the documentation relating to the activity concerned, including in any publication by the WHO CC of the outcome of this activity.

WHO may also require WHO CCs to publicly disclose the interactions, affiliations, relations and/or other interests of its director and/or staff that are considered to give rise to a conflict of interest.

Before accepting any contributions from private sector entities, WHO CCs should seek the written assurance from the contributors in question that they will not use the results of the work that they have supported for commercial purposes or seek promotion of the fact that they have made a donation. However, they may make reference to donations in their corporate annual reports or similar internal documents.

WHO CCs should at all times maintain full and exclusive control over the activity to which a contribution relates, including over any report of the activity, its contents, whether it is published or disseminated in any form (e.g. electronically), and the timing of such diffusion.

### **5. Research conducted by WHO CCs under a joint workplan**

The terms of reference or work plan of a WHO CC should not include research involving human participants conducted by the WHO CC on its own accord. Instead, the terms of reference or work plan could provide that the centre will "participate in collaborative research under WHO leadership". Such activities will be conducted as WHO research, following WHO procedures and rules.

In order to fulfil WHO's responsibilities and oversee its involvement in research involving human participants, WHO has established a WHO Research Ethics Review Committee (ERC) to provide ethical review of research involving human participants funded or otherwise supported by WHO. As a result, in addition to the approval required for the designation or re-designation of a WHO CC, any research activity involving human participants included in the terms of reference or work plan of the WHO CC may require the approval of the WHO ERC. The WHO responsible officer will seek such approval/s, if necessary. Approval by an ethics body other than the WHO ERC does not exempt a research activity from WHO ERC review. The decision whether or not a particular activity involving human participants requires WHO ERC review and approval is made by the WHO ERC.

All research involving human participants for which WHO ERC approval is required, must conform to the requirements set forth at [http://www.who.int/rpc/research\\_ethics/erc/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/rpc/research_ethics/erc/en/index.html).

It is furthermore the responsibility of the WHO CC to safeguard the rights and welfare of human participants involved in research performed as part of the terms of reference or work plan, in accordance with the appropriate national code of ethics or legislation, if any, and, the Helsinki Declaration and any subsequent amendments. Research may only be undertaken where:

- (a) the rights and welfare of the research participants are adequately protected;
- (b) freely given informed consent has been obtained;
- (c) the balance between risk and potential benefits involved has been assessed and deemed acceptable by a panel of independent experts appointed by the institution;
- (d) any special national requirements have been met.

It is moreover the responsibility of the institution to comply with the relevant national regulations pertaining to research involving human participants.

Without prejudice to obligations under applicable laws, the WHO CC is required to make appropriate arrangements to eliminate or mitigate the negative consequences to research participants, or their families in the case of death, injury or illness resulting from the conduct of the research. Such arrangements shall, to the extent feasible, include medical treatment and financial relief. The WHO CC should furthermore undertake to protect the confidentiality of the information relating to the possible identification of participants involved in such research.

Finally, the WHO CC should ensure that living animals, required for use as laboratory animals in research undertaken by the WHO CC, shall be handled

in accordance with generally accepted principles for the humane treatment of such animals and the avoidance of unnecessary suffering.

## **6. Guidelines development**

A WHO Guideline is a health information product containing recommendations. All WHO guideline development activities supported by a WHO CC as part of the agreed workplan must conform to the requirements set forth in the WHO Guidelines Review Committee (GRC) rules and procedures, unless the WHO guideline in question has previously been adjudicated by WHO as being exempt from GRC review.

## **7. Other conditions**

### **7.1 Dissemination of results through WHO media**

If any of the proposed activities provides that the results will be published by WHO, or disseminated through the WHO website or through any other WHO media, the material to be published or otherwise disseminated will be subject to specific WHO clearance processes.

### **7.2 WHO funds**

If any of the proposed activities mentions WHO as a source of funds, such financial contribution from WHO will be subject to the availability of funds.

### **7.3 Liability**

The WHO CC shall be solely responsible for the manner in which the activities included in the terms of reference or work plan are carried out and accordingly shall assume full liability for any damage arising from these activities. Thus, WHO shall not be responsible for any loss, accident, damages or injury suffered by any person whatsoever arising in or out of the execution of these activities.

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By completing and submitting this form, the head of the proposed WHO CC confirms that:

- to the best of his/her knowledge the information provided in this form is true and complete; and
- if there is any change in the information provided in this form, he/she will promptly notify the responsible officer of WHO.

If these conditions cannot be met, an institution cannot be (re)designated as a WHO CC. If these conditions cease to be met after designation, this should be immediately reported to the responsible officer of WHO.