



Ref.: C.L.10.2020



... The World Health Organization (WHO) presents its compliments to Member States and Associate Members and has the honour to inform them that with reference to C.L.48.2019 (attached) on the 13th Global Summit of National Ethics/Bioethics Committees (GS NEC) and in light of the current COVID-19 outbreak and the growing number of cancellations received, the Steering Committee of GS NEC has taken the decision:

- **to postpone the event**, which was originally planned to take place from 18 to 20 March 2020 in Lisbon, Portugal, and
- **to provisionally reserve the dates of 9–11 September 2020**, subject to confirmation as soon as negotiations with the venue are concluded.

The World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States and Associate Members the assurance of its highest consideration.

GENEVA, 9 March 2020

... ENCL.: (1)

Ref.: C.L.48.2019

The World Health Organization (WHO) presents its compliments to Member States and Associate Members and has the honour to invite them to nominate a representative to participate in the 13th Global Summit of National Ethics/Bioethics Committees (GS NEC) which will take place 18–20 March 2020 in Lisbon, Portugal. For the sake of continuity of the work of the Summit, Member States may wish to consider nominating the Chairperson of the National Ethics/Bioethics Committees/Commissions (NECs) of their country. Member States who do not have a national ethics/bioethics committee/commission may nominate an observer to the Summit, which will be an opportunity for them to interact and learn from the experience of other national committees and possibly help them in establishing a national committee in the country.

The Global Summit is jointly organized by the Portuguese National Council of Ethics for the Life Sciences (Conselho Nacional de Ética para as Ciências da Vida) and WHO, in collaboration with UNESCO. The venue will be at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. WHO, UNESCO and the Portuguese National Council of Ethics for the Life Sciences will each contact their respective partners in each Member State. Member States may therefore wish to take into account that there may be additional representatives on their delegation participating in the Global Summit.

The objectives of the Global Summit are:

1. To bring together national ethics/bioethics Committees/Commissions/Advisory Bodies, from around the world to share their thoughts and experiences in relation to bioethical issues of global concern.
2. To serve as an international forum for exchange of views and debate on bioethical issues of common global interest, review latest evidence and the national debates around those issues, and identify common approaches.
3. To contribute both to common understanding and consensus building between nations.
4. To assist those nations developing their national bioethical framework and guidelines.
5. To provide the space and opportunity to convene regional forums of national ethics committees.

The theme of the Summit is *Health Care 4 All*. A programme and documentation will be posted when available at the Summit website www.globalsummitlisbon.com. The language of the Summit is English. Simultaneous interpretation into French and Spanish will be available.

C.L.48.2019

A note verbale confirming the nomination(s) must reach the Secretariat by **15 February 2020** and be sent by email to ct_ethics@who.int. Upon receipt of the nomination and contact emails of the nominee(s), instructions to register to the Summit will be sent directly to them. Requests for further information can also be sent to ct_ethics@who.int, with the subject line "Global Summit 2020".

In addition, invitations will be extended to United Nations and other international organizations working in the area of bioethics, international experts, and funding agencies.

Due to financial constraints, unfortunately no funding is available to support participation of any country. Full details on the Summit, including venue, reservation at the hotel venue, accommodation near to the venue and visa requirements will be made available at the Summit website in due course.

The World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States and Associate Members the assurance of its highest consideration.

GENEVA, 17 December 2019