

**General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022
Archives' Research Report**

Resolution No.: 2022-A027
Title: Support of the World Health Organization
Proposer: Standing Commission on World Mission
Topic: Health

Directly Related: (Attached)

None

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

None

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2018, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#) or call 800-525-9329.

A027 - Support of the World Health Organization

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Standing Commission on World Mission

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 07 - Social Justice & International Policy

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 80th General Convention express its full support of the World Health Organization in its mission to promote the highest standard of health for all people; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention support the position that the United States of America remain a full member of the Organization; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention direct the Office of Government Relations to communicate to the leadership of both Houses of Congress and other appropriate governmental agencies the position of The Episcopal Church regarding the World Health Organization and its concern that the independence of the World Health Organization to pursue its global mission not be compromised by partisan national politics and interference, especially as the world responds to the threat of climate change to world health and the effect of pandemics such as Covid-19 on populations with fragile health care systems.

Explanation

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations system with 194 member states. Its primary role is to direct international health within the United Nations' system and to lead partners in global health responses, directing and coordinating international health work through collaboration with countries, the United Nations system, international organizations, civil society, foundations, academia, and research institutions.

In 2019, the WHO outlined the top ten threats to global health. The dominant threats are global warming and climate change. Strong threats are heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. The WHO also noted the threat of a flu-like pandemic such as Covid-19, although when and where the pandemic would appear could not be predicted. Other threats were vulnerable health care systems and vaccine resistance.

The WHO has led the eradication of smallpox and is instrumental in efforts to control polio, HIV, and tuberculosis. The WHO has improved maternal and child health care worldwide.

In April 2020, the United States suspended financial contributions to the World Health Organization and began procedures to withdraw from the Organization. This resolution seeks to encourage Episcopalians to understand how the World Health Organization exemplifies the healing ministry of Jesus and thus promote the WHO to decision-makers in the United States and throughout all countries of the Episcopal Church as the impact of the WHO affects its global mission partners worldwide.

The Principles of the World Health Organization, stated at the beginning of its Constitution, confirm our baptismal vow to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being”. As the world-wide intergovernmental health organization, the WHO is the leading agency in promoting health for all. While other organizations, governmental and non-governmental, are involved in healthcare and public health, the role of WHO as the lead intergovernmental organization in health and as part of the UN system is crucial.