



January 2018

A message from the Association of Former WHO Staff Members (AFSM)

Dear Colleagues,

This message is intended for all former WHO staff and is written at the suggestion of Dr Tedros Adhanom Gebreyesus, Director-General.

The WHO Staff Health Insurance (SHI) has kindly and exceptionally authorized us to send this message to you with the distribution of its own documents. Please note that, unless you are already a member of our Association, we do not know your address and will only find out your contact details if you answer this message.

We were delighted that Dr Tedros, our new Director-General, was able to attend our AFSM General Assembly on 5 October 2017. In his address to the participants, he emphasized that all former staff remain part of the WHO family and would be welcome to contribute to the achievement of WHO's objectives. He specifically asked the AFSM to propose arrangements whereby *we could work together, help each other and remain one family*.

The idea of the DG, as we understand it, is not necessarily to offer paid assignments but to create a pool of former WHO staff who could and would be willing to contribute to the objectives of WHO, notably those outlined in the 13th General Programme of Work which is currently under development.

http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EBSS4/EBSS4_2-en.pdf

In parallel, the DG will inform his senior management of this initiative and seek their willingness to identify ways and means to use the experience and expertise of former WHO staff.

Such contributions could include for example:

- *Mentoring younger staff*
- *Being WHO champions in civil society*
- *Participating in meetings, giving presentations*
- *Reviewing documents and giving opinions*

As a first step, we are therefore calling on you to explore your preliminary interest in responding to this initiative of Dr Tedros.

This is the first time ever that a WHO Director-General demonstrates such an interest in using the experience and skills of former staff and we are honoured to be entrusted with such an assignment.

Should you be interested in this proposal, please contact us, preferably by email and we will then provide you with more details.

With best wishes,

Dr Jean-Paul Menu
on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Association of Former WHO Staff Members