

Memorandum of Understanding
between
the International Association for Impact Assessment
and
the World Health Organization

Background

Whereas The International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) recognizes the profound effect of policies, programmes and projects on the physical, social and economic environment, and consequently on human health,

Whereas The World Health Organization (WHO) has set out four strategic directions, two of which consider human health as a cross-cutting issue in development, namely

- reducing the risk factors associated with major causes of disease and the key threats to human health that arise from environmental, economic, social and behavioral changes
- promoting an effective health dimension to social, economic and development policy,

Whereas The World Health Organization, therefore, implicitly recognizes the importance of prospective and retrospective impact assessment as a tool for managing and planning, formulating, adjusting and applying policies, programmes and projects so as to safeguard and enhance human health,

Whereas The formation of a *health section* in IAIA and the aforementioned WHO strategic directions indicate a common purpose, linking the objectives of the two organizations,

This *Memorandum of Understanding* is established

- To define those common objectives and to provide a framework for mutual collaboration in support of progress towards sustainable development and health
- To bring to the attention of the Director General of the World Health Organization and the President of IAIA, the nature of these common interests and mechanisms to enhance the interactions of these common interests.

Common Objectives

The agreed collaborative framework aims to ensure that

- All policies, programmes and projects receive an adequate impact assessment that includes human health
- Standard impact assessment procedures are followed that include screening/scoping, formulating terms of reference, appraisal of the assessment and stakeholder development of an inter-sectoral action plan for the implementation of recommended measures
- Recommendations for safeguarding, mitigating and enhancing human health are included in health impact statements

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- All assessments are carried out in an open and transparent fashion, providing adequate opportunities for stakeholder input
- Monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and projects is included
- The value of health impact assessment within environmental impact assessment is brought to the attention of all stakeholders
- Collaborative programmes of capacity building are planned
- Joint research and technical assistance is facilitated
- Inter-sectoral collaboration is espoused
- Relevant actions of each organization are advertised

Activities

In pursuance of these objectives, IAIA and WHO each designate a focal point responsible for the collaborative activities, which will include

- representatives of each organization are invited, subject to the applicable rules of each organization,
 - (a) to relevant meetings, workshops and other fora and
 - (b) to be members of relevant committees of the other organization
- an annual meeting to review progress in areas of mutual interest and develop plans for joint activities
- technical inputs into each other's capacity building activities
- joint development of research agendas and support to resource mobilization for relevant research activities
- promotion of cooperation between each organization's network at the national level in support of strengthening countries' capacity in impact assessment

Financial considerations

This Memorandum does not imply any obligation for either Party to provide financial support, but not withstanding

- from time-to-time, each organization may invite and support representatives from the other to its meetings
- each organization shall seek opportunities for mutual joint action
- when joint programmes are established, they may be administered by either organization using its usual procedures, subject to its rules and procedures

Any dispute concerning the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be settled amicably by the parties.

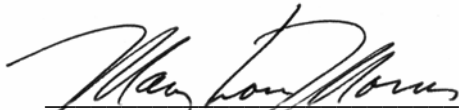
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This Memorandum of Understanding can be terminated by either Party by giving notice to this effect within a minimum of two months time.

Parties/Signatories

For the International Association
Impact Assessment

For the World Health Organization



Mary Lou Morris,
President

Date: 1 December 00



Ann Kern, Executive Director
Sustainable Development and Healthy
Environments

Date: 9/11/00