

## Position Statement

### To the organizing committee, Second Open Expert Meeting on the Revision of the WMA Declaration of Taipei (DoT)\*

*Position in relation to the revision of the Taipei Declaration (DoT) on Ethical Considerations regarding Health Databases and Biobanks of the World Medical Association (WMA) that will be discussed in meetings in São Paulo (5-6 March 26), then in the Vatican and Norway, and in repudiation of the presence of representatives of the Israel Medical Association in the WMA working group that reviews the DoT.*

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The DoT approved by the AMM<sup>1</sup> is in the process of being revised, as we have had many challenges in recent years, especially due to the advancement of digital technologies and Artificial Intelligence, such as metatechnology.

The DoT, despite being a physicians' statement, is important because it defines the ethical use of identifiable data and biological material, being used as a global guideline for researchers, physicians, health team members, and organizations, to ensure the ethical, safe, and respectful handling of personal health information and to establish correct and transparent governance.

Taking into account that the proposition and ethical governance of public policies at the national and international levels require respect for human dignity and human rights, values that are incompatible with the intentional destruction of human populations.

And that the atrocities committed by the Israeli army in Gaza include the killing of nearly 2,000 health workers, systematic attacks on hospitals and medical facilities, and the killing of tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians. The WMA and the entire medical community have remained silent or taken insufficient positions in support of these selfless individuals and have failed to clearly defend the Palestinian population. UN Human Rights Council Report A/80/184 (17 July 2025) called for the immediate and impartial investigation into the killing of 500 health workers between October 2023 and June 2024 and "the accountability of the perpetrators" by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

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\* This position statement was sent 5 March 2026 by the lead author via email to the Organising Committee of the second public meeting on the revision of the Declaration of Taipei by the World Medical Association (WMA), and to the Secretary General of the WMA; it was published on the same date in full by the Spanish media as below: VIOMUNDO Diario da Resistencia. **Bioeticistas repudiam participação de Israel na revisão da governança ética de políticas públicas mundiais. 5 March 2026.**

<https://www.viomundo.com.br/denuncias/especialistas-em-bioetica-repudiam-participacao-da-associacao-medica-de-israel-na-revisao-da-governanca-etica-de-politicas-publicas.html>

The Japanese translation has been reprinted in the print edition of this journal, whilst both the Japanese and English versions have been published, with small style edit, on the website of *Clinical Evaluation*.

Therefore, we are publicly expressing our repudiation and stating our non-participation in the meeting in São Paulo, for the fact that the Medical Association of Israel is part of the working group in charge of forwarding the revision of the DoT, and thus we are supporting the position of the South African Medical Association (SAMA),<sup>2</sup> which suspended all professional and bilateral relations with the Israeli Medical Association (IMA) and requested its suspension from the WMA, citing the IMA's failure to maintain medical ethics amid Israel's ongoing military assault on Gaza's health system. Neutrality in the face of systematic violations of medical ethics is equivalent to complicity.<sup>3</sup>

We add the need for transparency and broad participation of all interested actors in the discussion of opportune changes, a discussion that is of interest to all segments of the population of each country. Among these actors, it is essential to ensure the participation of representatives of ordinary peoples and representatives of patients and research participants, in addition to the most excluded and vulnerable segments. We also reiterate that all discussions of the meetings proposed by the WMA (Taipei, Brazil, Vatican and Norway) be simultaneously publicized and open to wide participation through public consultations.

## References

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<sup>1</sup> WMA Declaration of Taipei on Ethical Considerations regarding Health Databases and Biobanks

<https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-declaration-of-taipei-on-ethical-considerations-regarding-health-databases-and-biobanks/>

<sup>2</sup> South African Medical Association severs ties with Israeli counterpart and calls for wider shunning of the group *BMJ* 2025; 391:r2129 – accessed at

<https://www.bmj.com/content/391/bmj.r2129>

<sup>3</sup> Greco, D The horrific health crisis in Gaza – the World Medical Association and the entire medical community must unequivocally support healthcare professionals and advocate for the end of atrocities perpetrated by the Israeli government

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