ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING – OCTOBER 22, 2026

Name: World Health Organization NSA Engagement Committee
Chair: Maja Beck Popovic
Director of Policy Affairs: Olga Kozhaeva

Strategy Goal 1: Advocating globally for children and adolescents with cancer

In 2026, SIOP WHO Committee' advocacy built on the landmark inclusion of the Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC) in the Political Declaration of the Fourth UN High-Level Meeting on NCDs (4HLM), adopted in December 2025. SIOP provided active contributions to joint advocacy leading up to this outcome. In 2026, the 4HLM Declaration paved the way for SIOP's increasingly influential role in both the global childhood cancer and wider NCD agendas. Throughout the year, Childhood Cancer International (CCI) remained a key partner, enabling a coordinated, partnership-based approach bringing together multidisciplinary professionals, parents, patients and survivors to speak in a united voice.

Key achievements of the SIOP WHO Committee included:

- **Strengthened political advocacy at the WHO Executive Board (EB)**. In February 2026, the SIOP WHO Committee Chair delivered a constituency statement calling for the momentum generated by the 4HLM to translate into strategic prioritisation of childhood cancer in national policies and programmes, with progress monitored over time. The statement also highlighted the wider health-system benefits of investing in childhood cancer, particularly for other childhood NCDs. Led by SIOP as convener, the statement secured the endorsement of 11 organisations across disciplines and childhood NCD areas — the highest level of support achieved to date for a SIOP-led statement at the WHO Executive Board.
- **Expanded coalition-building at the World Health Assembly (WHA)**. In May 2026, the SIOP-led statement attracted a record 13 participants, further broadening the coalition supporting childhood cancer as an entry point for strengthening NCD health systems. Throughout the WHA week, the SIOP WHO Committee Chair and members also participated in numerous side events and related engagements, advancing childhood cancer topics from the angles of survivorship, access to medicines, nutrition, rare diseases and national cancer control planning.
- **Ensured key role and visibility around milestone childhood cancer report**. SIOP played a prominent role around the landmark WHO Childhood Cancer 'Deep Dive' Report, '*Measuring survival, driving change: advancing equity through the WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer'*, which provided comparable childhood cancer

survival estimates across countries for the first time. The report recognised SIOP and CCI as key GICC partners, underscoring their contribution to the global childhood cancer response. SIOP's expertise and leadership were further demonstrated through high-profile speaking roles at the report's launch in May 2026.

- **Increased visibility of childhood cancer within WHO's wider cancer reporting**. The WHO Global Cancer Status Report, published in July 2026, further reflected the prominence of childhood cancer and SIOP's contribution in its Section on the GICC.

Together, these activities consolidated SIOP's advocacy position and the visibility of childhood cancer in global health policy across both the cancer control and NCD agendas.

Strategy Goal 2: Promoting research to improve outcomes for patients

In line with the WHO Committee's mandate to help mobilise appropriate SIOP expertise to contribute to WHO technical work, the SIOP WHO committee and wider membership provided instrumental input to the development of GICC technical briefs intended for policymakers, national cancer programme managers, and hospital and health-system managers. Distinct technical briefs are anticipated for each of the six GICC index cancers, and SIOP's experts made important contributions to the Wilms tumour technical brief, the first of the six to be published, in 2026. The WHO Committee is currently helping prepare the work on the 2nd GICC tumour-specific brief focusing on Retinoblastoma.

Strategy Goal 3: Providing education and training

In 2026, the WHO Committee continued to act as a **catalyst for the implementation and dissemination of the GICC and CureAll framework at international, regional and national levels**. Through speaking engagements, events, and advocacy and communications on key WHO developments, the Committee helped connect SIOP members with developments and implementation priorities arising from SIOP's engagement with the WHO and the GICC.

Strategy Goal 4: Increasing membership engagement and retention

The WHO Committee provides a mechanism for connecting SIOP members with relevant WHO activities, technical opportunities and global policy developments. It does so both through wide dissemination of news from the WHO and the GICC, as well as by facilitating targeted engagement, such as helping match the expertise of SIOP members to WHO technical brief development and speaking roles at various WHO events and working groups.

Strategy Goal 5: Strengthening and expanding strategic partnerships

In 2026, the SIOP WHO Committee **strengthened and sustained SIOP's formal partnership with WHO**, coordinating the implementation of the SIOP-WHO Non-State Actor workplan and supporting continued technical collaboration and advocacy.
The Committee contributed to the **successful reporting on the SIOP-WHO workplan for 2024–2026** and, with guidance from SIOP's designated technical officer at the WHO, submitted a **new three-year work programme proposal**, establishing the basis for continued collaboration over the next three years.

More broadly, the Committee continued to work with key partners, particularly **Childhood Cancer International (CCI)** as well as **International Pediatric Association (IPA)** and **NCD Alliance**, and expanded its support-base to include other international organizations working in relevant disciplines and NCD areas.

The SIOP WHO Committee would like to thank its valuable members for their continued and active engagement:

- Maja Beck Popovic, Chair
- Rashmi Dalvi, Member
- Julia Challinor, Member
- Ira Dunkel, Member
- Oscar Gonzalez-Ramella, Member
- Venkatraman Radhakrishnan, Member
- Lorna Renner, Member
- Gilles Vassal, Member
- Rob Pieters, Member (ex-officio)
- Guillermo Chantada, Member (ex-officio)
- Joyce Kambugu, Member (ex-officio)
- Rejin Kebudi, Member (ex-officio)
- Susanne Wollaert, Member (ex-officio)

With a special Thank You to Roberta Ortiz, SIOP's Designated Technical Officer at the WHO.

- Olga Kozhaeva, Member (ex-officio)