



**ESMO Statement  
for the  
WHO Executive Board Meeting  
30 January – 7 February 2023**

**Agenda item 12.1: Strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies  
- Strengthening clinical trials to provide high-quality evidence on health interventions and to  
improve research quality and coordination**

Honorable Chair, Esteemed Delegates,

The European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) represents more than 28,000 cancer professionals from over 160 countries.

We welcome the Director-General's report on "Strengthening clinical trials to provide high-quality evidence on health interventions and to improve research quality and coordination".

As medical oncologists who treat cancer patients and perform clinical trials, we would encourage the WHO to coordinate the development of normative guidance for all aspects of clinical trials, to further expand the 'International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use' guidelines, and to include health care professionals in their development.

We also support the comprehensive mapping of national clinical trial infrastructures, the inclusion of not-for-profit cooperative oncology groups therein, and WHO's development of self-assessment tools for use in the clinical trial ecosystem, with indicators to track progress.

Given their critical role in facilitating innovative research and delivering effective treatments, ESMO stands ready to support the design of robust WHO guidance on clinical trials.

Thank you.