

# **WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

**Information Note: 26/2020**

**Subject: Short Term Developmental Assignments (STDAs) Policy – update on implementation**

**Distribution: All WHO/UNAIDS/ICC/UNITAID Staff members worldwide**

**Date: 8 October 2020**

The purpose of this Information Note is to inform all staff of changes in the implementation of the WHO Short Term Developmental Assignments (STDAs) Policy during the ongoing COVID-19 emergency period.

## **Rationale:**

The experience of the past few months related to the exceptional circumstances under the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that the full implementation of the STDAs Policy in its true developmental and learning spirit has been challenging due to restrictions on travel. It is for this reason that the Administration has decided to implement a temporary suspension of its full application. As a consequence, all future opportunities, including those currently being negotiated, in relation to the Policy are suspended with immediate effect and until 31 December 2020, unless the assignment can be conducted without travel.

As regards the STDA arrangements that are currently being finalised where the staff member will not be able to join the new team physically in the duty station and on site, and where the assignment cannot be conducted remotely, the STDA HR focal point in conjunction with the receiving department will immediately inform each staff member and their supervisor by email that their STDA has been postponed until at least January 2021. New opportunities may continue to be advertised, but the feasibility and timing of implementation will be determined by HRT as described in this Information Note. The Human Resources and Talent Management Department (HRT) will continue to review the STDAs policy in light of the exceptional circumstances generated by the pandemic and make further adjustments as required.

For all circumstances related to STDAs the information and guidance previously shared through the Administrator message of 18 March 2020: “*COVID-19 : Important information to all Staff at headquarters*” is maintained and can be found at the following link:

<https://intranet.who.int/sites/covid19/documents/guidance%20for%20staff%20on%20stdas%20and%20their%20supervisors.pdf>

For any questions please contact your respective STDA HR focal point or Sara Canna at [cannas@who.int](mailto:cannas@who.int) with copy to [Developmentalassignments@who.int](mailto:Developmentalassignments@who.int)

These changes are effective immediately.

La version française de cette note d'information sera publiée au plus tôt.

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