

Policy on Scientific Statements

9th June 2013

Scientific Statements are identified by the 'Priorities for activities of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease' (The Union) as a means of dissemination of information regarding the scientific activities of the organisation.

A series of Scientific Statements has been issued by The Union and are available on The Union's website (<http://www.theunion.org/index.php/en/resources/official-documents>), as well as being available from the Secretariat upon request. The purpose of these Statements has been to address issues of importance to the organisation such as to establish policy, to set criteria for methods or to establish standards of practice in the care of patients or in the operation of programmes.

Guidelines for Union Scientific Statements

1. The need for a Scientific Statement must be clearly justified, both from a scientific and an official point of view. Additionally, there should be no similar statement in existence regardless of whether it is a Union statement or not;
2. The purpose of such Statements is to provide the scientific basis of a policy, method or standard of practice;
3. They must include an explicit scientific justification for the policy, method or standard of practice within the body of the Statement;
4. They should present issues of general concern to the constituency and should be applicable to health interventions and community action.

Process for development of Union Scientific Statements

The need for a Scientific Statement may be identified by an individual member, a Scientific Section, or by the Coordinating Committee of Scientific Activities (CCSA). To proceed with its development, however, it must be officially adopted by a Section(s) and approved by the CCSA.

When approval has been granted for the development of a Statement, a working group must be formed with a clearly defined leader, a description of the task to be undertaken and a timeline. This working group is created, according to the guideline for such groups, by the Chair of the Section(s) or of the CCSA. To maintain its official status, the working group must report annually to the Section with a copy of the written report provided to the CCSA. The working group leader, in consultation with the Chair of the Section, must ensure that the Statement is developed without bias and on a solid and comprehensive scientific base.

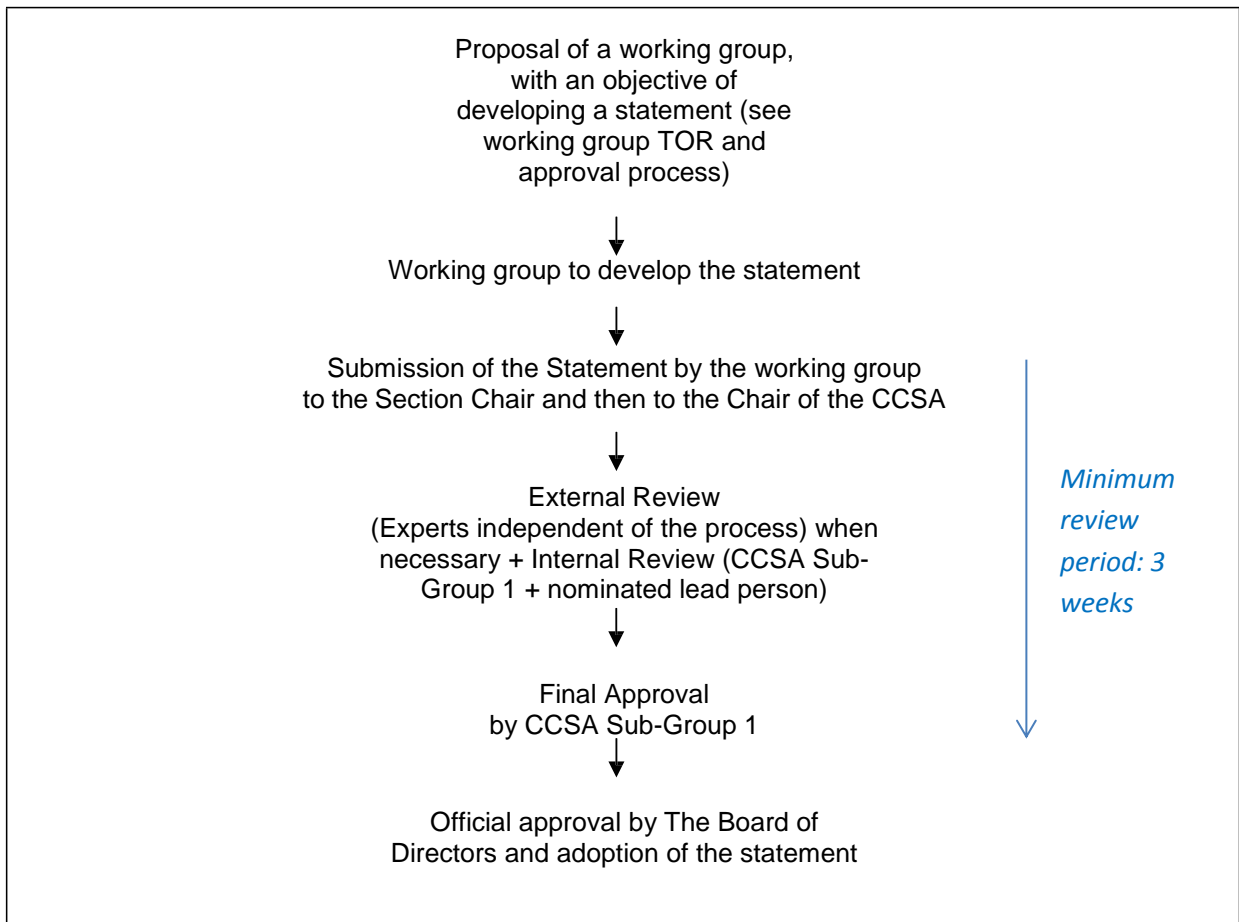
Proposed Statements must be consistent with current Statements, official documents and official positions of The Union. Where a change in policy is proposed, the original Statement must be re-examined and revised prior to adoption of the new Statement.

When the Statement has been completed by the working group, it must be presented to the Section Chair for comment and revision, if necessary, and then submitted to the Chair of the CCSA who will obtain external review by experts not involved in the development of the Statement, as well as internal review by the members of the CCSA Sub-Group 1. The CCSA will nominate one of The Union representatives on the CCSA to act as the responsible lead person for final sign-off. When the issues raised by the reviewers and the sub-group have been satisfactorily addressed, the Statement will be presented to the Board of Directors for their official approval and publication in the Journal.

Validity of Union Scientific Statements

The Scientific Statement must have a “period of approval” (usually not longer than 5 years) when it is considered to be valid. This is to ensure that current Statements remain relevant and do not require revision. CCSA sub-group 1 shall review the statement at the completion of its “period of approval” and if it is relevant it may be revised by the CCSA or the appropriate working group and approved once again.

Steps in the development of a Union Statement



Endorsement of non-Union statements by The Union

External non-Union groups may also submit requests for Union endorsement of technical guides, articles, consensus statements, publications, etc. Such requests should be submitted directly to the Chair of the CCSA and should then undergo the same internal and external review as for Union Statements, leading to official approval by the CCSA Sub-Group 1 and The Union Board of Directors if successful.