UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TERRITORIES IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC

On 20 September 2019, the United States of America Department of State informed the WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific of its request for the United States Territories in the Western Pacific, namely American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to participate in their own name – with one seat to be shared among the three territories – but without the right to vote, in the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific (the Regional Committee).

The United States of America wrote to WHO in its capacity as the country having responsibility for the international relations of American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. In its diplomatic note, the United States of America informed WHO that it has consulted with Member States participating in the Regional Committee and that no objection was received from any Member State in connection with this request. The Regional Director subsequently responded to the Government of the United States of America, as per the attached letter dated 27 September 2019. Accordingly and consistent with Article 47 of the WHO Constitution and past practice, the Regional Director will be pleased to make an announcement at the seventieth session of the Regional Committee, shortly after the adoption of the Agenda, welcoming the United States of America Territories in the Western Pacific to participate in the Regional Committee with one seat, but without the right to vote.
27 September 2019

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the diplomatic note sent on 20 September 2019 concerning the request by the Government of the United States of America for the United States' Territories in the WHO Western Pacific Region, namely American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to have their own seat (one seat shared among the three territories), without the right to vote. I have further noted that your Government, consistent with Article 47 of the WHO Constitution, has conducted the necessary consultations with Member States of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific in relation to the above mentioned request and that no Member State of the Region has objected to this proposal.

In this regard, please note that your Government's note will be shared with all Member States of the Western Pacific Region. Furthermore, at the Regional Committee on Monday, 7 October 2019, after agenda item 5, Adoption of the agenda, an announcement will be made welcoming the United States' Territories in the Western Pacific as participant in the Regional Committee in their own name but without the right to vote.

However, should there be any question raised by a Member State at that point, the chair of the Regional Committee will invite the delegation of the United States of America to provide the necessary clarifications.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Takeshi Kasai, MD, Ph.D.
Regional Director

cc: Please see attached list.
cc: The Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C.

The Deputy Assistant Secretary, Territorial Affairs, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

The Director, Office of Asian and the Pacific, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C.

His Excellency the Governor, Tutuila

The Director of Health Services, Department of Health Services, Tutuila

His Excellency the Governor, Adelup

The Director, Department of Public Health and Social Services, Mangilao

The Director, Guam Behavioural Health and Wellness Centre, Tamuning

The Honourable Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan

The Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Saipan

The WHO Representative/Director, Pacific Technical Support, Suva

The WHO Representative in Samoa, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau, Apia