



GLOBAL
STROKE ACTION
COALITION

The WHO Resolution on stroke: what it means and how SAFE can help drive action

Tuesday 23th June

Global commitment to action

In May 2026, Member States have adopted the first-ever [WHO Resolution dedicated to stroke](#)



This is a major milestone: stroke has previously been addressed only within the broader NCD and neurological frameworks, without a dedicated global mandate



The opportunity ahead is to translate this global commitment into action at regional and country level



Implementation of the resolution, supported by **sustained advocacy** and engagement from organizations like SAFE and its members, will be key to ensuring impact at country level

What is the WHO stroke Resolution?



Title

Reducing the burden of stroke: strengthening prevention, acute care, rehabilitation and health system readiness



Advanced

By the WHO Executive Board in February 2026



Adopted

By Member States at the 79th World Health Assembly in May 2026

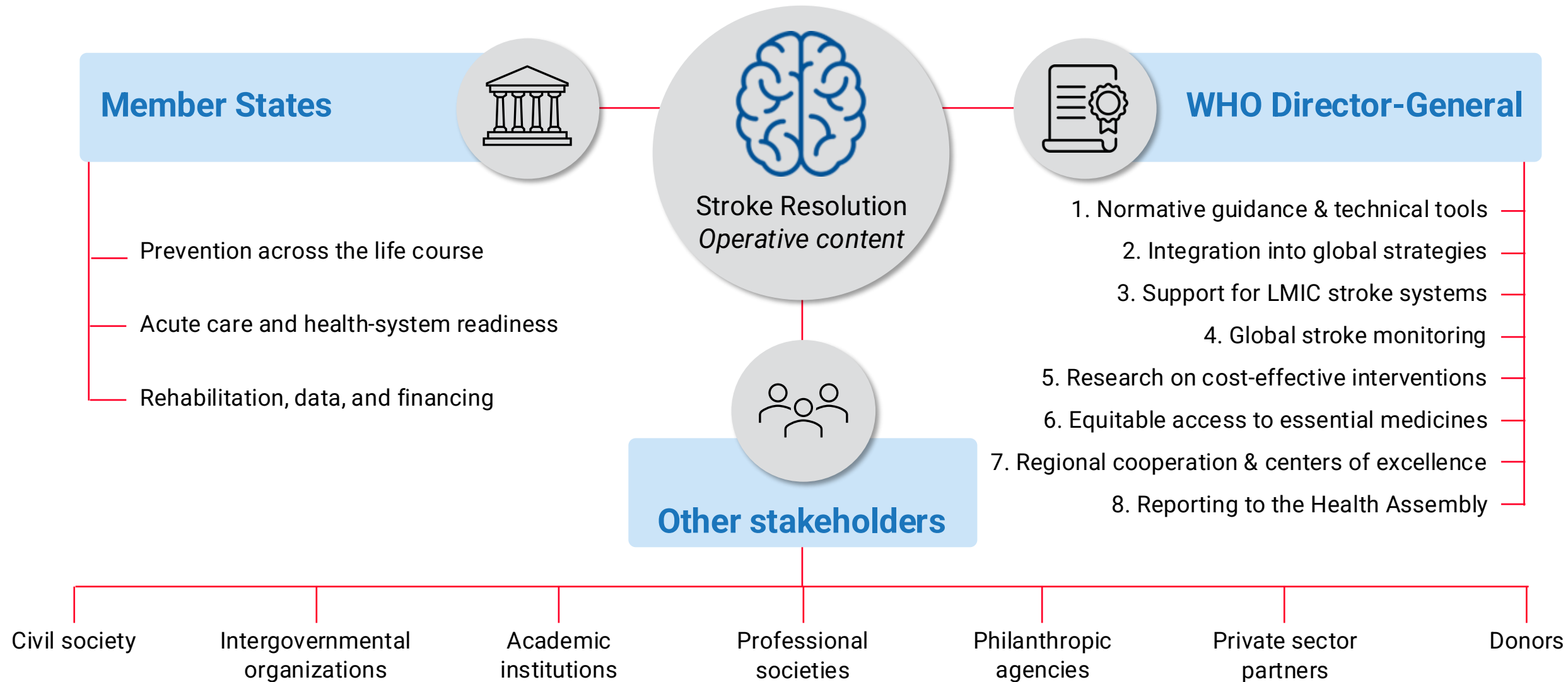
It includes:

- 16 action areas for **Member States**
- 8 requests to the **WHO Director-General**
- Encouragement to other stakeholders including **civil society**, philanthropic and professional societies in supporting implementation

Member States are urged to:
*engage communities and civil society, including stroke survivor organizations and caregivers, in **designing and monitoring policies and services, supporting public awareness and secondary prevention adherence and reducing stigma associated with disability.***



Resolution stakeholder mapping



What the Resolution covers

First dedicated WHO mandate on stroke

That treats stroke as a continuum of care rather than a single acute event including:

-  Prevention and risk factor control
-  Emergency and acute care readiness
-  Rehabilitation and long-term support
-  Surveillance, registries and accountability
-  Universal health coverage and health-system strengthening

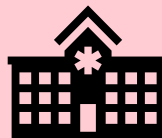
The 3 core structural areas of the Resolution

1: Primary interventions across the prevention spectrum



- Risk factor control
- Primary care integration
- Health literacy and school-based prevention

2: Acute care and rehabilitation



- Pre-hospital recognition and referral pathways
- Imaging and thrombolysis capacity
- Systems for thrombectomy where feasible
- Multidisciplinary rehabilitation and long-term support

3: Surveillance and data



- National stroke registries
- Standardized sex-disaggregated indicators
- Monitoring incidence, mortality, risk factors, service availability, time-to-treatment, and outcomes

Underpinned by a health-system strengthening approach

What are governments expected to deliver?



National stroke action plans or strategies addressing stroke



Action to improve:

- **Prevention** (e.g. hypertension control)
- Emergency **response** and acute **care**
- **Rehabilitation** and long-term support



Better data and tracking systems:

- Setting up **registries**
- **Indicators** to be provided by the WHO



More **equitable** access to care



Why this matters to SAFE members



Stroke is now recognized as a global health priority

- The Resolution elevates stroke on national and international policy agendas.
- It establishes stroke as a formal political commitment, with countries expected to monitor, report, and demonstrate progress.



A stronger framework for stroke care

- The Resolution promotes continuum of care, encompassing prevention, early detection, emergency response, acute treatment, rehabilitation, and long-term support.
- Countries are encouraged to integrate stroke services into Universal Health Coverage benefit packages, helping ensure equitable access to quality care.



Global action and accountability

- The Resolution reinforces and strengthens the Stroke Action Plan for Europe by adding global political endorsement, accountability, and momentum.
- It creates stronger alignment between national advocacy efforts and a globally agreed commitment, increasing leverage for policy change and investment.
- It provides SAFE members with a stronger and more unified advocacy platform, enabling coordinated action at national and European levels.



How SAFE members can support the Resolution

The Resolution urges Member States to:

“engage communities and civil society, including stroke survivor organizations and caregivers, in designing and monitoring policies and services, supporting public awareness and secondary prevention adherence and reducing stigma associated with disability.

The Resolution thus gives SAFE members an advocacy opportunity and a clear policy role...

... creating a stronger basis for SAFE members to engage governments, contribute to planning and accountability, and support awareness.

4 key actions that
SAFE members
can take:



**1. ENDORSE AND
ENGAGE**



**2. RAISE
AWARENESS**



**3. ENGAGE
NATIONAL
STAKEHOLDERS**



**4. STAY INFORMED
AND KEEP UP THE
MOMENTUM**

Action 1: Endorse and engage

- Consider becoming a GSAC endorser at an individual or institutional level
- What this means:
 - You will receive updates from GSAC, including information about advocacy toolkits and campaigns
 - You or your organization will appear on the map on the website
- Engage your organization's leadership (representatives from member organizations)
 - Align with the Resolution at an organizational level



Action 2: Raise awareness

- SAFE's strength lies in amplifying messages across countries through its network of national organizations
- Creating an advocacy toolkit for your members including:
 - Social media
 - Explain what the resolution is
 - Share why it matters in Europe/European countries
 - Link to local stroke challenges
 - Events
 - Webinars
 - Member or stakeholder briefings
 - Workshops on how to engage with policymakers
 - Media outreach
 - Local spokesperson engagement
- Make the Resolution relevant to individual European countries by linking it to:
 - Gaps in national system
 - Patient stories/lived experience ambassadors
 - Local data (if available)



Action 3: Engage regional/national stakeholders

- Use the resolution as a reference point to support your existing national advocacy priorities
- Bring the Resolution into national conversations. Use it in discussions with:
 - Ministries of Health
 - Policymakers
 - Health authorities
 - EU-level stakeholders (where relevant)
- Simple ways to engage policymakers:
 - Request meetings or briefings
 - Share a short explainer on the resolution
 - Invite them to events
 - Leverage key moments such as World Stroke Day or national health discussions



Action 4: Stay informed and keep up the momentum

- Follow updates from:
 - WHO (guidance and metrics)
 - WSO (implementation and campaigns)
 - GSAC (newsletter and advocacy)
 - ESO (European policy, data and initiatives)
- Share and amplify with the SAFE network:
 - Share updates with SAFE members
 - Share experiences and examples of advocacy that worked between members



This Resolution is a major milestone,
but its impact will depend on what happens next.

Together, we can transform global commitment
into real change for people affected by stroke.



Mia Grupper, World Stroke Organization

Q&A