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In reply please
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Your reference:

Mr Erik Olson
Director, Health & Environment Program
Senior Strategic Director Food & Health
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
1152 15th Street NW, Suite 300
Washington DC 20005
United States of America

24 August 2015

Dear Mr Olson,

I hereby acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 15 June 2015 and thank you for your interest in the work of the World Health Organization (WHO).

WHO bases its normative activity on sound science including the assessment of hazards and their potential or real risks to public health, which in turn serves as the basis for international standard development as well as national regulations of Member States.

Within WHO, the work of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), which conducts hazard classification, and the work of the Joint WHO/FAO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), which conducts full risk assessment on pesticide residues in food, are not duplicative, but are complementary. The former's work may usefully trigger the work by the latter, which is actually the case for glyphosate. JMPR will be informed of the IARC's work on glyphosate and may decide to revisit JMPR's own previous risk assessment of glyphosate at a future meeting.

IARC and the JMPR, including its task force, are governed by the same rules and procedures on managing conflict of interest of experts. Due process is followed by asking JMPR experts to submit their declaration of interest, which, in turn, is evaluated by the JMPR Secretariat. The same holds for IARC's Monographs programme.

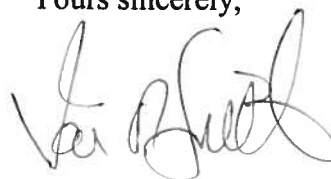
Cc : Dr C Wild, Director, IARC

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Mr E Olson
Washington D.C.

WHO systematically requires external experts to declare any interest that could give rise to a situation of conflict of interest and evaluates any declared interest carefully to avoid undue interference with WHO's processes in the course of their collaboration with WHO. Where interests are declared, they are disclosed in all transparency. This process allows WHO to maintain the dialogue with leading technical experts required to make informed scientific decisions, while ensuring there is no undue influence. Final decisions always solely reflect WHO's independent and impartial judgement.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Ian Smith
Executive-Director