

Vision Statement

Professor Sir Collin Tukuitonga KNMZ

I have the qualifications, experience and vision required for this role, and I am confident I can add significant value as World Obesity continues to strengthen its influence at global, regional and local levels. In a period of uncertainty and disruption in global health, the Federation can provide stability, leadership and a clear strategic direction in addressing obesity. Maintaining strong leadership during this time is essential.

I have served on the World Obesity Policy and Planning Committee for several years. While time zone differences have limited my ability to participate in some meetings, the letters of support accompanying this submission attest to my long-standing contribution to NCDs, including obesity, across the Pacific Islands and globally.

Obesity is a major health, social and economic challenge in the Pacific Islands; however, many countries lack the resources and capacity required to prevent and manage obesity and related conditions. In addition, independent NGO advocacy is limited, and governments may face competing priorities in funding and service delivery. I would bring a valuable perspective in this context, and I would use my networks and influence to help build sustainable NGO capacity across the region.

Global governance and advocacy are central to World Obesity's mission. As President-Elect and President, I would prioritise strengthening global and regional advocacy through collaboration with like-minded partners. It will also be important to maintain and strengthen relationships with WHO, particularly given the challenges WHO faces with its Member States. World Obesity is a credible voice and can play a constructive role in supporting WHO's global work.

World Obesity has an excellent track record in global advocacy to increase awareness and advance effective interventions that reduce the impact of obesity on individuals, families, communities and nations. I would draw on my global networks and experience with WHO to further this work and sustain the momentum generated by World Obesity and partner organisations. I also note that World Obesity is the only global NGO dedicated specifically to obesity policy, prevention, treatment, education, science and data.

In addition, I would use World Obesity's convening role to bring together influential stakeholders to support increased and sustainable funding for the organisation, and to strengthen political support for NGOs at local, regional and global levels. I would also seek to convene appropriate experts to advance the science, evidence and data that underpin obesity prevention and treatment, recognising persistent gaps in what is known to be effective. Strengthening science and data would build on the important work already underway within World Obesity.

It is also important to maintain and strengthen World Obesity's education function for all communities, particularly those most affected by obesity—for example, low socioeconomic groups in low-income countries, including the Pacific Islands. The World Obesity Strategic Plan 2025–2027 will require review and refresh; this would provide an opportunity to incorporate the priorities outlined above should I be successful as President-Elect and President of World Obesity.

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