

WEO Publications Policy

This policy outlines procedure for all WEO publications under the auspices of WEO. Serving WEO mission, it is expected that publications may result from activities within the various committees. In principle, WEO will pursue primarily:

1. **Position statements** on topics affecting worldwide the practice and quality of endoscopy, in most cases emergent, low-evidence situations. Some examples: Endoscopy in COVID-19 pandemic; tele-mentoring; framework for training facilities in outreach settings
2. **Cascade-guidelines** – together with Regional or National Member Societies, WEO will promote a cascade approach adapting current standards to different levels of practice. Some examples: Cascade guidelines with ESGE on variceal bleeding.
3. **Survey/Registries results** – WEO Executive strongly suggest through survey and registries the audit/measure of practice according to (cascade-) guidelines. Cross-regional projects are encouraged. Examples: AI, ERCP training.
4. **Endorsements** – WEO may decide to endorse upon request documents from Regional Societies or other recognized entities. The overall quality and topic will be assessed by the Executive committee, that may include other committees' perspectives when applicable and endorsement decided. The process for endorsing publications is outlined in the WEO Publications Endorsement Policy.

Type of document	Aim of document	Members per document (n)	Methodology					Review / Revision	Committee
			PICO	Review of evidence	GRADE [2]	Consensus	Other		
Position statements	To provide the opinion of the WEO council on political and strategic issues or those scientific fields where there is lack of adequate evidence.	TBD	-/+	-/+	-	-/+	TBD	Exe	Council, All committees

Cascade	To adapt Regional Guidelines to developing countries.	4-5	-	+	-	+(Delphi)	Resource-sensitive levels	Exe	Standards
Surveys	Refers to non-structured documents such as surveys, research questions, etc.	TBD	-/+	na	na	na	TBD	Peer	Research
Endorsements	Diverse	na	-/+	+	-/+	-/+	TBD	Exe	variable

a. Selection of topics, groups and timeline plan

- The WEO executive committee with the different committees will develop and approve a 5 years' plan of publications that will be commissioned according to the specificities of the document and committee(s). This will also serve to avoid overlapping and foster collaboration between committees.
- For each topic, a task force / working group will be proposed to the WEO.
- A leader for a specific document will select members, aiming at diversity of continents, gender and age. A proportion should be selected after a call to IMs including Alumni.
- Before inclusion in the Working Group / Taskforce, each member should report a COI. The Committee Chair is responsible for COI evaluation and selection of members.

b. Consensus methodology

Consensus process for development of WEO documents may be based on unstructured methodology, such as face-to-face meetings, when substantial evidence is available, or a more structured approach, such as modified Delphi consensus, when evidence is limited.

c. Revision process

External review / revision is required for most documents. This should be based on at least 2 reviewers from the council who do not belong to the working group. This external review process applies to all documents except Position Statements. These individuals are named before the process starts and acknowledged in the final document.

Before final submission the draft must be submitted to the Executive Committee for information.

d. Authorship

Only individuals who have made substantial intellectual, scientific and practical contributions to the document should be regarded as authors.

e. Journal selection and dual publication

Submission to DEN, WEO's official journal is encouraged, other high-impact factors journals are also most welcome.