

Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme

Terms of reference

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee (“the Committee”), for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme (“the Programme”), established by the Director-General, is to provide oversight and monitoring of the development and performance of the Programme, guide the Programme’s activities, and report its findings through the Executive Board to the Health Assembly. The Committee will advise the Director-General on issues within its mandate.

FUNCTIONS

2. The functions of the Committee shall be:

- (a) To assess the performance of the Programme’s key functions in all emergencies (including graded emergencies and infectious disease risks). These functions will include:
 - (i) Monitoring and advising the Organization on the implementation of the Programme;
 - (ii) Assessing the Programme’s performance against the metrics articulated in the Emergency Response Framework; and
 - (iii) Monitoring the application of lessons learned from past events to the future adaptation of the Programme
- (b) To assess the performance of the Programme’s emergency work in preparedness, prevention, detection and response;
- (c) To review the adequacy of the Programme’s financing and resourcing;
- (d) To provide advice to the Director-General on the matters under points (a) and (b) above;
- (e) To prepare a report on its activities, conclusions and recommendations for submission by the Chair of the Committee to the Executive Board and World Health Assembly

COMPOSITION

3. The Director-General shall appoint the Members of the Committee. The composition of the Committee and the qualifications of its members shall be as follows:

- (a) The Committee shall comprise up to eight members of integrity and objectivity and who have proven experience in senior positions in the areas covered by the scope of the Committee, including public health, infectious disease, public administration, humanitarian crises,

emergency management, community engagement, partnerships and development. Prior to meetings of the Committee, members will be required to sign a declaration of interest and a confidentiality agreement in accordance with WHO practice;

(b) Committee membership should be multisectoral and could be drawn from national governments, donors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society, private sector, the UN system and other institutional partners;

(c) In the selection process, due regard shall be given to geographical representation and gender balance;

(d) Members shall serve in their personal capacity and cannot be represented by an alternative attendee. They shall neither seek nor accept instructions in regard to their performance on the Committee from any government or other authority external to or within WHO, and will exercise their responsibilities with full regard for the paramount importance of independence;

(e) Members will be required to have or acquire a good understanding of WHO's objectives, governance structure and accountability, the relevant regulations and rules, and its organizational culture and control environment;

(f) The term of office shall be 2 years. In order to ensure continuity, the term of office of four of the initial members shall be renewable once;

(g) The Chair of the Committee shall serve in this capacity for a single term of 2 years, non-renewable.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

4. The following arrangements shall apply:

(a) Members of the Committee shall not be compensated for their work on the Committee;

(b) Members of the Committee shall be provided travel entitlement in accordance with WHO rules and procedures applying to IOAC;

(c) The Committee shall meet at least twice per year, in person or through video or teleconferencing;

(d) Except as provided for in its terms of reference, the Committee shall be guided by the rules of procedure of Expert Committees, as appropriate;

(e) The Committee may decide at any time to obtain outside expertise if necessary and subject to available resources, as determined by the Secretariat, and shall have full access to all relevant WHO files, surveillance data and archives pertaining to the work of the Committee, which shall be treated on a confidential basis;

(f) The WHO Secretariat will provide secretariat support to the Committee.

Note from the Secretariat: This is a revised version of the terms of reference originally published on 5 May 2016. Following the first meeting of the IOAC 2018-2020 on 18 June 2018 the terms of reference have been revised.