Terms of Reference

Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Antimicrobial resistance

The Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Antimicrobial resistance (STAG-AMR) is the principal advisory group to the World Health Organization (WHO) on Antimicrobial resistance. The STAG-AMR has the mandate of advising the WHO Director-General and the AMR Division on overall global policies and strategies to address AMR within the context of human health, while considering relevant World Health Assembly (WHA) resolutions and decisions. The mandate of the STAG-AMR is to provide strategic and technical advice.

Functions – Advising the WHO Director-General and the AMR Division

The STAG-AMR shall have the following functions:

1. To review progress in the implementation of WHO’s priority activities to tackle AMR in countries consistent with WHO’s mandate, relevant WHA resolutions and decisions, and the strategic objectives of the Global Action Plan on AMR, and make recommendations;
2. To provide an independent evaluation of the major strategic, scientific and technical challenges and opportunities to be addressed by WHO in order to enhance progress in addressing AMR in the context of human health;
3. To review the adequacy of WHO’s response to emerging national and global public health risks with regard to AMR and make recommendations;
4. To review and make recommendations on the status of linkages between AMR and other health interventions, and other relevant sectors;
5. To review and make recommendations on WHO’s engagement in partnerships to enhance the achievement of global AMR goals.

Composition

1. The STAG-AMR shall have up to 20 members, who shall serve in their personal capacities to represent the areas of technical expertise relevant to the implementation of the five strategic objectives of the global action plan on AMR. In the selection of the members, consideration will be given to attaining an adequate distribution of technical expertise, strategic and operational management experience, geographical representation and gender balance.

2. Members of the STAG-AMR, including the Chairman, shall be selected and appointed by WHO in consultation with the Regional Offices as appropriate, on the basis of their technical expertise and public health experience. The Chairman's role includes the following:

   - to chair the meeting of the STAG-AMR;
   - to liaise with the WHO Secretariat between meetings

3. Members of the STAG-AMR, including the Chairman, shall be appointed to serve for a period of three years, and shall be eligible for reappointment only once. Their appointment and/or designation as Chairman may be terminated at any time by WHO if WHO's interest so requires or as otherwise specified in these TORs or letters of appointment.

   Internal Note: selection/appointment/termination should be made by the Director-General or by the ADG of the responsible Division, if delegated this authority.
4. Representatives from inter-governmental organizations, as well as nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO may be invited by WHO to participate in STAG-AMR meetings as observers. Upon invitation of the Chair, they may present the views and policies of their organizations and contribute to the discussions in the STAG-AMR. They will not participate in the process of adopting the final decisions or recommendations of the STAG-AMR.

5. Members must respect the impartiality and independence required of WHO. In performing their work, they may not seek or accept instructions from any Government or from any authority external to the Organization. They must be free of real, potential or apparent conflict of interest. To this end, proposed members/members will be required to provide a Curriculum Vitae and complete a declaration of interest form and their appointment, or continuation of their appointment, will be subject to the evaluation of completed forms by the WHO Secretariat, determining that their participation would not give rise to a real, potential or apparent conflict of interest.

**Operation**

1. The STAG-AMR shall usually meet at least once each year. WHO shall provide any necessary scientific, technical and other support for the STAG-AMR. WHO may convene additional meetings, including through teleconferences and videoconferences, on an ad hoc basis, as decided by the Assistant Director General of the AMR Division.

2. The STAG-AMR may establish Working Groups as agreed upon by WHO and as resources allow, in order to help address specific questions identified by the STAG-AMR. These Working Groups will function for a time limited basis and report back to the STAG-AMR.

3. Members are expected to attend meetings. If a member misses two consecutive meetings, WHO may end his/her appointment as a member of the STAG-AMR. WHO may decide to appoint a member in replacement of that member.

4. Reports of each meeting will be submitted by the STAG-AMR to WHO (the Assistant Director-General of the AMR Division). All recommendations from the STAG-AMR are advisory to WHO, which retains full control over any subsequent decisions or actions regarding any proposals, policy issues or other matters considered by the STAG-AMR. WHO also retains full control over the publication of the reports of the STAG-AMR, including whether or not to publish them.

5. Information and documentation to which members may gain access in performing STAG-AMR related activities will be considered as confidential and proprietary to WHO and/or parties collaborating with WHO. STAG-AMR members shall not purport to speak on behalf of, or represent, the STAG-AMR or WHO to any third party. All proposed members will be required to sign an appropriate confidentiality undertaking and provisions on ownership.