World Health Organization

WHO Health Emergencies Programme: Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee
Note for the Record

First meeting of the Committee	**5 May 2016**
Geneva, Switzerland	**15h30 – 17h30**

Participants

IOAC Members

1. Ms Precious Matsoso (Chairperson), Director General of Health, South Africa
2. Prof Walid Ammar, Director General of Health, Lebanon
3. Dr Geeta Rao Gupta, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF
4. Dr Felicity Harvey, Director General for Public and International Health, UK
5. Mr Jeremy Konyndyk, Director, Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance, USAID
6. Dr Hiroki Nakatani, Professor for Global Initiatives, Keio University, Japan
7. Dr Michael Ryan, Senior Advisor, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, National Emergency Operations Centre, Islamabad, Pakistan

The Chairperson participated in person; all other Members participated via teleconference.

Mr Elhadj As Sy, Secretary General, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies was not able to join this meeting.

WHO Secretariat

1. Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General
2. Dr Anarfi Asamoa-Baah, Deputy Director-General
3. Dr Bruce Aylward, Executive Director, a.i., Outbreaks and Health Emergencies & Special Representative of the Director-General for the Ebola Response
4. Dr Ian Smith, Executive Director, Office of the Director-General
5. Ms Katherine DeLand, Chief of Staff, Outbreaks and Health Emergencies

The Chairperson and the Director-General welcomed the Members of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee (IOAC) for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme (the Programme) to their first meeting. They outlined the objectives of the Committee, in particular to monitor WHO's implementation of the Programme and provide expert guidance and advice. The Director-General emphasized the IOAC's independence, and the willingness of WHO leadership and Secretariat to be resource persons and to provide background materials.

The Chairperson opened the floor to discussion regarding the IOAC terms of reference. The Members considered the mode of working, including frequency of meeting, the meaning of "oversight", how the Committee will access materials and information and the need for support for the IOAC itself. Members indicated that they would like to meets as often as required and also to conduct site visits. It was noted that paragraph 2(d) of the terms of reference should be split into two clauses. The WHO Secretariat indicated that the IOAC would have access to documents, staff and work of the Programme across the Organization, as required for its work and that WHO would provide secretariat support to the Committee.

The Members discussed and agreed that the IOAC's mandate covered all emergencies in which WHO plays a role. Further information was requested on the metrics the Committee would use to evaluate the Programme's performance, including timelines and targets. It was clarified that the Programme

structure is settled, per the request of the Executive Board and Health Assembly, the work across the three levels of the Organization and the consensus of the Global Policy Group. The role of the IOAC in monitoring its implementation is paramount. The metrics for assessing Programme roll out and development (e.g. deadlines for Programme structure being in place and transitioning staff) are articulated in the Secretariat documents[1,2,3], subject to the decisions of the forthcoming 69th World Health Assembly. Those for Programme performance in emergencies are in the WHO Emergency Response Framework (and its update, to be released in 2016).

The Committee emphasized the importance of reviewing and providing advice regarding adequate resourcing for the Programme and the importance of distinguishing between core funds and event-based response funding. Governing bodies-driven mechanisms like assessed contributions and traditional voluntary contributions may not be enough. Innovation in financing and replenishment will be essential for the Programme to be sustainable.

Members noted that substantial progress that WHO has made to date in designing and rolling out the new Programme, as reflected in the document prepared for the Health Assembly. There was agreement on the scope of the Programme, including that the work under the International Health Regulations (2005) fall within the Programme's ambit.

In closing, the Chairperson thanked the Members and summarized the IOAC discussion, indicating that there was agreement with the terms of reference. She noted that the Committee had agreed that a face-to-face meeting should be planned as soon as reasonable, with early July as the preferred time frame (i.e. following the 1 July 2016 deadline for the first phase of Programme implementation and the IASC Principals meeting in June). The Secretariat was requested to make appropriate arrangements, and to provide background documents, including a comparison of recommendations made by the various panels and WHO's relevant actions.

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[1] EB138/55 2014 Ebola virus disease outbreak and issues raised: follow-up to the Special Session of the Executive Board on the Ebola Emergency (resolution EBSS3.R1) and the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly (decision WHA68(10)): High-level design for a new WHO health emergencies programme. Available at http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB138/B138_55-en.pdf (accessed 2 May 2016).
[2] Progress Report on the Development of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, published 30 March 2016. Available at http://www.who.int/about/who_reform/emergency-capacities/who-health-emergencies-programme-progress-report-march-2016.pdf?ua=1 (accessed 2 May 2016).
[3] WHA69/30 Reform of WHO's work in health emergency management: WHO Health Emergencies Programme. Available at http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA69/A69_30-en.pdf (accessed 4 May 2016).

Annex

First Meeting of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies programme

5 May 2016, 15:30 - 17:30 CET
By Teleconference +41.22.791.8628

1. **Welcome and opening remarks (10 minutes) —DG**

2. **Introductions of Chair and members (30 minutes) —Chair**

3. **Independent Oversight Advisory Committee: Focus, Terms of Reference, Way of Working (30 minutes)—Chair**

   - Members to comment on proposed draft TORs (pre-circulated)
   - Chair to propose to define format for meetings and frequency of meetings
   - Members to endorse TORs, format and frequency of meetings

4. **Reforming WHO's work in Emergencies (40 minutes) — DG/Chair**

   - Summary of rationale/objective for establishing committee, drawing on/summarizing background documents, which have been already circulated by the Secretariat. These include reports from EB, WHA, Ebola Interim Assessment Panel, Advisory group on emergencies reform and UN SG high level panel.
   - Q+A

5. **Wrap up and next steps (10 minutes)—Chair**