

Terms of reference

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee (IOAC) for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme (the WHE Programme), as established by the Director-General, is to provide oversight and monitoring of the performance of the WHE Programme, guide the Organization's activities in health emergencies, and report its findings to the World Health Assembly. The IOAC will advise the Director-General on issues within its mandate.

FUNCTIONS

2. The functions of the IOAC shall be:

- (a) to assess the performance of the Organization's emergency work in preparedness, prevention, detection and response;
- (b) to assess the performance of the WHE Programme's key functions in all emergencies, including graded emergencies and infectious disease risks. This will include:
 - (i) monitoring and advising on the WHE Programme;
 - (ii) monitoring the application of lessons learned from past events to the future adaptation of the WHE Programme;
- (c) to review the adequacy of the WHE Programme's financing and resourcing;
- (d) to provide advice to the Director-General on the matters under points (a), (b) and (c) above;
- (e) to prepare a report on its activities, containing the Committee's conclusions and recommendations, for submission by the Chair of the Committee to the World Health Assembly.

COMPOSITION

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

- (a) The IOAC 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 joining the IOAC, members will be required to sign a declaration of interest and a confidentiality agreement in accordance with WHO practice;

- (b) IOAC membership should be multisectoral and could be drawn from national governments, donors, non-governmental organizations and civil society, the private sector, the United Nations 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 IOAC 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 shall be renewable;
- (g) the Chair of the IOAC shall serve in that capacity for a term of 2 years, renewable up to a year.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

4. the following arrangements shall apply:

- (a) members shall not be compensated for their work on the IOAC;
- (b) members shall be provided travel entitlement in accordance with WHO rules and with the procedures applying to the IOAC;
- (c) the IOAC shall meet at least once per year in person and ad hoc meetings may be arranged in person or by video or teleconferencing, as appropriate;
- (d) except as provided for in its terms of reference, the IOAC shall be guided by the rules of procedure of expert committees, as appropriate;
- (e) the IOAC may decide at any time to obtain outside expertise if necessary and subject to available resources, as determined by the Secretariat; it 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 IOAC.

Note from the Secretariat: This is a revised version of the terms of reference published on 18 June 2018. Based on the Director-General's request at the twenty second statutory meeting of the IOAC on 7-8 November 2019 the terms of reference have been amended.