

**Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee
for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme
Draft Meeting Report**

**Fifteenth meeting by phone
Geneva, Switzerland**

**Tuesday 18 June 2018
13:00–14:30 CEST**

Agenda: please see Annex

Participants

IOAC: Felicity Harvey (Chairperson), Hiroyoshi Endo, Geeta Rao Gupta, Jeremy Konyndyk, Precious Matsoso, Theresa Tam

WHO Secretariat: Peter Salama, Shenaaz El-Halabi, Munjoo Park

Summary of discussions

The Chair opened the first meeting of the IOAC membership for the term of office 2018–2020 and welcomed everyone. The Chair introduced two new members, Dr Hiroyoshi Endo and Dr Theresa Tam, who were announced at the 71st World Health Assembly, 21–26 May 2018, by the Director-General. The Chair thanked Dr Precious Matsoso, former Chair of the IOAC 2016–2018 and honorary member 2018–2020, for her excellent service to the IOAC.

Terms of reference (TOR) of the IOAC and scope of work (agenda items 3, 6)

Upon completion of its 2-year term of office, and considering the progress made during this time and the current challenges the WHE programme is facing, the IOAC has decided to review its TOR and scope of work.

The four initial members shared their reflections on the IOAC's findings between the official launch of the WHE programme in July 2016 and May 2018. Significant progress was noted in implementation of a single structure across the three levels of the Organization; strengthened leadership in outbreak management and emergency response; institutionalization of an Incident Management System; and collaboration with partners on the ground. The members also recognized that consistent improvement has been made in finance, HR policies and business processes but that corporate-level solutions are required.

The remaining major constraints on the performance of the WHE Programme include procurement, security, IT, and the Framework of Engagement with Non-States Actors (FENSA). Members noted the proposed areas for IOAC's future work in the last report [A71/5](#) and recommended that the IOAC prioritize its work in line with the Results framework.

Members reiterated that IHR implementation, in-country capacity and emergency preparedness require further efforts by WHO and that the IOAC should give these areas high priority. The IOAC agreed that it would be necessary to hold an in-depth discussion on programmatic issues regarding the interface between the WHE Programme and the rest of WHO. A specific session would be dedicated to this subject in a future face-to-face meeting.

The Chair suggested that the IOAC Secretariat circulate proposed amendments to the TOR and the monitoring framework on the basis of the deliberations of the meeting and that members finalize them through continued online discussions.

Prior to the meeting, the draft TOR of the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB) and the Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Infectious Hazards (STAG-IH) were circulated. Dr Peter Salama, Deputy Director-General of Emergency Preparedness and Response, clarified the rationale for establishing these bodies and their distinctive mandates compared to that of the IOAC. GPMB is the unique platform for high-level political advocacy to ensure system-wide accountability for global preparedness and capacity to respond to outbreaks and emergencies. Co-convened by the Director-General of WHO and the President of the World Bank, the GPMB Secretariat will be set up a hybrid mechanism to follow up with recommendations and implementation. Given the close link between IOAC and GPMB, members suggested that the Chair of the IOAC should be considered as member of GPMB. STAG-IH was established as per the recommendation of the IHR review committee. It provides advice and analysis to the Deputy Director-General on the infectious hazards that may pose a potential threat to global health security. Dr Salama emphasised that there is no duplication among the various groups and that IOAC remains the only committee to hold WHO accountable for its work in outbreaks and emergencies. The IOAC requested an overview of the advisory committees and technical groups relevant to the WHE Programme in order to ensure close interaction and synergy.

Debriefing on Viet Nam mission (agenda item 5)

The IOAC chose Viet Nam for a field visit to better understand the country's successes and challenges in terms of health security. Dr Felicity Harvey and Mr Jeremy Konyndyk conducted the mission during 2–4 May 2018 and shared key findings and reflections. The mission team reviewed WHO's role in strengthening the country's IHR core capacities and key elements of Viet Nam's progress with health security. Viet Nam has proved that strong baseline capacity is a prerequisite to achieving health security, and that progress with IHR implementation depends on strong political will and partnerships for both technical support and financing. The IOAC mission team concluded that Viet Nam shows the depth and duration of investment that is required. Without these foundations, it might be difficult to replicate Viet Nam's success in other countries. Member States need to consider a viable model for financing and supporting health security work at scale. WHO should reflect this reality in the development of National Action Plans in each country's strategy and sequencing. A full version of the mission report will be circulated to members prior to publication.

WHE update by the WHE Programme (agenda item 4)

Dr Salama provided a briefing on the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC; please see annex 2). As of 16 June 2018, a total of 66 cases, including 28 deaths, had been reported. The total figures comprised 38 confirmed cases, 14 probable cases and 14 suspected cases. As at 13 June, 95% of contacts had been followed and the last contact is expected to be released on 27 June. The IOAC was briefed that the timeline of the WHO response was swift, an operational research component has been included in the response, the ring vaccination was well received by communities and more than 2700 individuals were vaccinated from 20 May to 16 June. Dr Salama highlighted the excellent collaboration with key partners and thanked WFP and MONUSCO for logistical support, which is critical to field responses in hard-to-reach areas. In terms of funding, the IOAC noted that the joint response plan was launched with a total ask of US\$56 million and that all requested funds have been received. The IOAC recommended a comparative analysis of the Ebola response in West Africa in 2014 and in DRC in 2018, which could be shared with Member States. Dr Salama had prepared a briefing on other major crises but due to the time constraints of the call, the IOAC requested to receive updates by email.

Planning IOAC work

In preparation for the meeting, a table of proposed activities was circulated and members were invited to express their availabilities and suggestions. During September 2018 to April 2019, two in-person meetings to prepare for the Executive Board and World Health Assembly respectively were proposed, and three or four teleconferences between these meetings and three field visits were suggested.

The members reiterated the usefulness of field visits and recommended a country visit to DRC in October 2018 to review WHO's response to the Ebola outbreak and to discern to what extent WHO can support the in-country strengthening of IHR core capacities following such an event.

Dates for IOAC activities can be confirmed once all members' availabilities are received; further details of the IOAC work plan will be discussed at the next meeting. Members agreed to hold the next meeting by phone on 4 September 2018 from 14.00 to 16.00 Geneva time.

End

Annex. Agenda

15th Meeting of the Independent Oversight Advisory Committee

for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme

Monday 18 June 2018, 13:00 – 14:30 CEST

- 1. Welcome and opening remarks by Dr Pete Salama (5 minutes)**
- 2. Introduction of the new Chair and members (10 minutes)**
- 3. Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee 2018-2020: Terms of Reference (30 minutes) – Chair**
 - Reflection on the IOAC work 2016-2018 by the initial members
 - DDG to brief on GPMB, STAG-IH: TORs
 - Members to review the current TORs and the monitoring framework
- 4. WHE update on the ongoing crises by Dr Pete Salama (15 minutes)**
- 5. Debriefing on Vietnam mission by Mr Jeremy Konyndyk (10 minutes)**
- 6. Scope of work and methodology 2018-2020 (15 minutes)**
 - Members to agree on the scope of work, areas for future focus, ways of working, frequency of meetings and potential dates
- 7. Wrap up and next steps (5 minutes) – Chair**