

Civil society representatives in the TB vaccine accelerator council

Terms of reference

Background

Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the leading causes of death from an infectious agent. Every year, at least 10 million people fall ill with TB worldwide, mostly in low- and middle-income countries, and more than one million people die. Drug-resistant TB continues to be a major contributor to antimicrobial resistance. The development of a safe and effective TB vaccine would undoubtedly be the best solution to prevent and potentially eradicate TB, and to address the antimicrobial resistance crisis.

However, new vaccine development has proven to be a challenge and no new TB vaccine has been licensed since Bacille Calmette–Guérin (BCG), over 100 years ago. Inadequate funding for R&D and lack of industry engagement constrains the pace of progress. A political environment that stimulates and clarifies the demand for effective TB vaccines, and initiatives that lower market uncertainty can incentivize stronger engagement from industry, biotechnology firms and manufacturers. Today, the prospects for additional, more-effective TB vaccines have been transformed by a series of advances in vaccine platforms used for COVID-19 vaccine development.

In January 2023, WHO's Director-General announced plans to establish an accelerator Council to facilitate the development, testing, authorization, and use of new TB vaccines, drawing on lessons learned from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council was established on 20 September 2023 on the occasion of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

1. Expected tasks

- (i) to prepare and contribute views and positions during the Council's meetings, including on priorities in TB vaccine development, implementation challenges and overall ways of working of the Council;
- (ii) to communicate and share feedback from the Council with constituency and/or civil society at large, in close consultation with the Secretariat;
- (iv) to follow up on the Council's decisions and next steps;
- (v) to contribute to working documents and initiatives, when requested by the Chair.

2. Way of working

- Meeting participation: Participate in virtual and/or in-person meetings, in accordance with the calendar of the Council. Travel may be required for some of the meetings.
- Language: All work will be conducted in English. Therefore, advanced level of written and spoken English is required.

3. Desired background

- At least 7 years of relevant experience in global advocacy with respect to research and development of new TB tools;
- Published peer reviewed publications, white papers or reports demonstrating global public health advocacy work with respect to new health products in TB, particularly vaccines;
- Demonstrated experience in contributing to the development of global normative documents such as TB vaccine research agendas, or other relevant documents;
- Demonstrated knowledge of the clinical pipeline of new TB vaccines;
- Leadership experience in research and development advocacy work, including capacity building at regional or global level.
- Post-graduate degree in public health or medicine;

4. How to Apply

- E-mail your CV to TBvaccines@who.int

