

Principles for the selection and participation of observers to the PCITEM

In accordance with the PCITEM Terms of Reference¹, “WHO, in consultation with the PCITEM Chair, may, on a case-by-case basis . . . invite one or more Observers to attend open sessions of PCITEM meetings.” This document provides principles for the selection and participation of observers to the PCITEM and may be revised as necessary.

1. Definition of observer

Observers to PCITEM are “any non-State actor that, based on WHO’s assessment, has a relevant and legitimate interest in” PC implementation. On the basis of the relevant elements of the PIP Framework and FENSA, two categories of relevant non-State actors have been identified for the purposes of PCITEM: (1) manufacturers, as represented through their respective international business associations and manufacturer networks and (2) ‘civil society’ organizations.

2. Definitions

Qualifying entities are (1) international business associations and manufacturer networks and (2) civil society organizations that meet the qualifying criteria to nominate one or more observers (see section 4, below).

Civil society organizations (CSOs) are defined, for the purpose of PCITEM and based on the PIP Framework, as organizations that are non-governmental and not-for-profit, through which people organize themselves to pursue shared interests in the public sphere.

An **observer** is an individual who is nominated by a qualifying entity and selected by WHO to attend the PCITEM meeting.

3. Maximum number of observers

A maximum of twelve observers may attend meetings of the PCITEM. This includes:

- Up to 6 observers from international business associations and manufacturer networks;
- Up to 6 observers from civil society organizations, as defined above.

4. Eligibility criteria

Entities wishing to nominate an observer must submit an expression of interest via the online form². In order to be eligible, the entity must demonstrate all of the following criteria:

- a. Category: International business associations and manufacturer networks (representing the three manufacturing sectors relevant to the PIP Framework: vaccines, pharmaceuticals, and diagnostics and other pandemic response products.)

¹ <https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/PIP-framework/pcitem/pcitem-tors.pdf>

² Available at: <https://www.who.int/groups/partnership-contribution-independent-technical-expert-mechanism/about>

The entity proposing observer/s must:

- Certify that it is not seeking Partnership Contribution funds;
- Demonstrate a history of participation in PIP Framework-related events, such as PIP Framework teleconferences, consultations or meetings (such as the PIP Advisory Group consultation with stakeholders), or other related events;
- Certify that some of its Members currently contribute funds to the Partnership Contribution, or are likely to do so in the future;
- Complete a Tobacco-Arms Disclosure Statement unless there is one already on file for the current calendar year.

b. Category: Civil society organizations – as defined above

The entity proposing observer/s must:

- Certify that it is not seeking Partnership Contribution funds;
- Demonstrate a history of participation in PIP Framework-related events, such as PIP Framework teleconferences, consultations or meetings (such as the PIP Advisory Group consultation with stakeholders), or other related events;
- Complete a Tobacco-Arms Disclosure Statement unless there is one already on file for the current calendar year.

5. Observer selection process

a. If more than six qualifying entities in a category nominate observers

In the event that more than six qualifying entities in a single category nominate observers, the Secretariat will select up to six observers based on the following criteria:

- Maintaining balance among sectors; and
- Maintaining balanced representation between developed and developing countries.

a. If fewer than six qualifying entities in a category nominate observers

In the event that fewer than six qualifying entities in a single category nominate observers, up to six observers may be selected in the category based on the following criteria:

- Each qualifying entity is allocated one observer;
- Additional observers may be selected randomly from among qualifying entities that nominate more than one observer.

6. Principles for the participation of observers in PCITEM meetings

a. Observer affiliation

Each observer will attend on behalf of the qualifying entity that nominated him or her.

b. Funding

Observers will pay for their own travel and any other expenses associated with attending PCITEM.

c. Sessions open to observers

In accordance with the TORs, non-State actor observers will be invited to attend only sessions of the PCITEM that are confirmed in the agenda as “open” and will not attend sessions in which the PCITEM develops findings or recommendations.

d. Opportunities for participation by observers

In accordance with the TORs, observers may be invited to provide comments only during open sessions and at the invitation of the Chair. Set times will be designated in the agenda for such participation by observers.