Timeline

Major infectious threats in the 21st Century & collaboration mechanisms to fight against them
Human health, animal health and the state of ecosystems are inextricably linked with 70-80% of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases known to be of zoonotic origin.
Scientific Advisory Group on Novel Origins (SAGO)

In the context of the continued threat of the emergence or re-emergence of pathogens with epidemic and pandemic potential

The Need

• A global framework to study the origins of emerging and re-emerging pathogens
  • Comprehensive and coordinated
  • A holistic approach to study the emergence of high threat zoonotic pathogens, including animal studies, animal human interface, environmental studies, biosafety and biosecurity
  • Established framework to study emerging pathogens where and when they emerge

Addressing a gap

• A scientific advisory group to advise WHO on technical and scientific considerations regarding emerging and re-emerging pathogens:

The Scientific Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens (SAGO)
Functions of the SAGO

1. To advise WHO on the development of a global framework to define and guide studies into the origins of future emerging and re-emerging pathogens of epidemic and pandemic potential

2. To advise WHO on prioritizing studies and field investigations into the origins of emerging and re-emerging pathogens of epidemic and pandemic potential, in accordance with the framework described above

3. To advise WHO on the development of a detailed work plan of the SAGO
Functions of the SAGO (continued)

4. In the context of SARS-CoV-2
   a. To provide independent evaluation of the scientific technical and strategic aspects of available findings from global studies on the origins of SARS-CoV-2;

   b. To advise the WHO Secretariat regarding developing, monitoring and supporting the next series of studies into the origins of SARS-CoV-2, including rapid advice on WHO's operational plans to implement the next series of global studies into the origins of SARS-CoV-2, as outlined in the Joint WHO-China Global Study of Origins of SARS-CoV-2:China Part report published on 30 March 2021 and with additional input from Member States and the scientific community, and advise on additional studies as needed;

5. To provide additional advice and support, as requested, which may include participation in future WHO-international missions to study the origins of SARS-CoV-2 or for other emerging pathogens, and briefing Member States in organized information sessions.
SAGO - Composition

- Up to 25 members

- Members must have significant expertise in one or more of the following technical disciplines to ensure a one health approach:
  
  infectious disease epidemiology and conducting epidemiological studies, field research, virology, ecology, molecular epidemiology, sero-epidemiology, medicine, bioinformatics, outbreak analytics, health statistics, microbiology, veterinary medicine, food safety, bacteriology, environmental science, biosafety, biosecurity, occupational health and safety, or laboratory safety and security, ethics and social sciences, or other activities related to the emergence or re-emergence of pathogens of pandemic potential.

- Geographic representation, gender balance, declaration of interest

- Members of the SAGO shall be appointed to serve for a period of 2 years and shall be eligible for reappointment
SAGO - Open Call & Selection Process

• Open call – circulation of open call to Member States, existing WHO networks, GOARN, and available on WHO website

• Interested individuals will be asked to register their interest to SAGO@who.int and include:
  
  • A cover letter (maximum 500 words)
  
  • Curriculum vitae
  
  • A signed and completed Declaration of Interests (DOI) form for WHO Experts, available at https://www.who.int/about/ethics/declarations-of-interest
  
• All applications will be assessed by the WHO secretariat in accordance with the WHO procedures, based on their technical expertise, taking into consideration diverse perspectives from different regions, especially from low and middle-income countries, and for gender balance