

Ref.: C.L.4.2026

Membership of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee of the World Health Organization

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to Member States and has the honour to inform them that, following the formal establishment, through resolution EB125.R1 (copy attached), of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee (IEOAC) reporting to the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board of WHO, and previous selections to fill the five positions of the IEOAC on a rotating basis, a new selection process is being initiated for a partial renewal of the membership of the IEOAC.

In accordance with resolution EB125.R1 and the revised terms of reference for the Committee as adopted through decision EB150(16) (2022), the Director-General is therefore pleased to invite Member States to suggest names of potential candidates whose profile corresponds to the selection criteria as set out in the terms of reference; and would like to recall in this context that, in view of the paramount importance of the criterion of independence of IEOAC members, who will serve in their personal capacity, a formal government endorsement will not be required nor will it confer an advantage of one candidature over another.

The process for identifying and evaluating suitable candidates for the IEOAC will also involve the review of the candidatures by external experts who will advise the Director-General. The Director-General will then propose to the 159th Session of the WHO Executive Board candidatures for membership of the Committee as well as details of the proposed candidates.

Membership in the IEOAC entails the reimbursement of travel and per diem expenses. In order to safeguard the independence of the external experts who will be members of this committee, they should not receive salary supplements or other subsidies from their governments for the performance of their functions on the Committee. The Committee will meet on average about three times per annum.

Each proposal should contain the following information: a curriculum vitae not exceeding four pages, including a brief statement of not more than 250 words from the person proposed on what he or she considers their membership would contribute to the Committee. Shortlisted applicants will submit a confidential declaration of interest to WHO to disclose any relevant business interests, positions of authority or other connections with organizations relevant to the work of WHO.

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Further information on the application process can be obtained from WHO's Business Operations Division, Assistant Director-General's office (contact person: Roberto Balsamo, balsamor@who.int).

The deadline for the submission of candidates is 6 March 2026. Submissions should be sent to the following address: IEOAC@who.int.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 13 February 2026

RESOLUTION

EB125.R1 Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee

The Executive Board,

Having discussed the modalities for the establishment of an independent expert oversight advisory committee in the light of the views expressed by the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board,¹

1. DECIDES to establish an Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee reporting to the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board and APPROVES its terms of reference as annexed;
2. DECIDES that the initial membership of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee will be appointed by the Executive Board at its 126th session in January 2010;
3. REQUESTS the Director-General to propose candidates for membership of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee to the Executive Board at its 126th session, as provided for in the terms of reference of the Committee.

ANNEX

TERMS OF REFERENCE

PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE

1. As an independent advisory committee established by the Executive Board of WHO, and reporting to the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee, the purpose of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee is to advise the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee, and, through it, the Executive Board, in fulfilling their oversight advisory responsibility and, upon request, to advise the Director-General on issues within its mandate.

¹ See documents EB124/3, EB125/3 and EB125/11.

FUNCTIONS

2. The functions of the Committee shall be:

- (a) to review the financial statements of WHO and significant financial reporting policy issues, including advice on the operational implications of the issues and trends apparent;
- (b) to advise on the adequacy of the Organization's internal controls and risk management systems, and to review management's risk assessment in the Organization and the comprehensiveness of its ongoing risk management processes;
- (c) to exchange information with, and review the effectiveness of, the Organization's internal and external audit functions, as well as to monitor the timely, effective and appropriate implementation of all audit findings and recommendations;
- (d) to advise on the appropriateness and effectiveness of accounting policies and disclosure practices and to assess changes and risks in those policies;
- (e) to provide, upon request, advice to the Director-General on the matters under points (a) to (d) above;
- (f) to prepare an annual report on its activities, conclusions, recommendations and, where necessary, interim reports, for submission to the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee by the Chairman of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee.

COMPOSITION

3. The composition of the Committee and the qualifications of its members shall be as follows:

- (a) The Committee shall comprise five members of integrity and objectivity and who have proven experience in senior positions in the areas covered by these terms of reference.
- (b) Following consultations with Member States, the Director-General shall propose to the Executive Board candidates for membership of the Committee. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Board. No two members shall be nationals of the same State.
- (c) Members shall provide their services free.
- (d) Members must be independent. They shall serve in their personal capacity and cannot be represented by an alternate attendee. They shall neither seek nor accept instructions in regard to their performance on the Committee from any government or other authority external to or within WHO. All members will be required to sign a declaration of interest and a confidentiality agreement in accordance with WHO practice in this respect.
- (e) Members shall collectively possess relevant professional financial, managerial and organizational qualifications and recent senior-level experience in accounting, auditing, risk management, internal controls, financial reporting, and other relevant and administrative matters.

- (f) Members shall have an understanding of and, if possible, relevant experience in the inspection, investigative processes, monitoring and evaluation.
- (g) Members should have or acquire rapidly a good understanding of WHO's objectives, governance structure and accountability, the relevant regulations and rules, and its organizational culture and control environment.
- (h) Committee membership should have a balanced representation of public and private-sector experience.
- (i) At least one member shall be selected on the basis of his or her qualifications and experience as a senior oversight professional or senior financial manager in the United Nations system or in another international organization.
- (j) In the selection process, due regard shall be given to geographical representation and gender balance. In order to retain the most equitable geographical representation, membership should be rotated among the WHO regions to the extent possible.

TERM OF OFFICE

4. The term of office shall be four years, non-renewable, except that the term of office for two of the initial members shall be two years, renewable once only for four years. The Chairman of the Committee shall be selected by its members. He or she shall serve in this capacity for a term of two years.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

5. The following arrangements shall apply:
- (a) Members of the Committee not resident in the Canton of Geneva or neighbouring France shall be entitled to the reimbursement of travel expenses in accordance with WHO procedures applying to members of the Executive Board.
 - (b) The Committee shall meet at least twice per year.
 - (c) The quorum for meetings of the Committee shall be three members.
 - (d) Except as provided for in its terms of reference, the Committee shall, *mutatis mutandis*, be guided by the rules of procedure of the Executive Board concerning the conduct of business and the adoption of decisions. The Committee may propose amendments to its terms of reference for consideration by the Executive Board, through the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee.
 - (e) The Committee may decide at any time to obtain independent counsel or outside expertise if necessary and shall have full access to all WHO files and archives, which shall be treated on a confidential basis.
 - (f) The WHO Secretariat will provide secretariat support to the Committee.

(Second meeting, 23 May 2009)

EB150(15) Date and place of the 151st session of the Executive Board

The Executive Board decided:

- (1) that its 151st session should be convened on 30 May 2022, at WHO headquarters, Geneva;
- (2) that, in the event that limitations to physical meetings preclude the holding of the 151st session of the Executive Board in May 2022 as envisaged, adjustments to the arrangements for that session should be made by the Executive Board or, exceptionally, by the Officers of the Board, in consultation with the Director-General.

(Eleventh meeting, 29 January 2022)

EB150(16) Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee: terms of reference

The Executive Board, having considered the revised terms of reference of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee,¹ and having also considered the report of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board,²

Decided to confirm its agreement to the terms of reference of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee, as amended by the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee³ and contained in Annex 5.

(Twelfth meeting, 29 January 2022)

EB150(17) Award of the Ihsan Doğramacı Family Health Foundation Prize

The Executive Board, having considered the report of the Ihsan Doğramacı Family Health Foundation Selection Panel,⁴ awarded the Ihsan Doğramacı Family Health Foundation Prize for 2022 to Professor Mehmet Haberal from Turkey for his pioneering work in the field of general surgery, organ transplantation and treatment of burns in Turkey and in the world. The laureate will receive a gold-plated silver medal, a certificate and an honorarium of US\$ 20 000.

(Twelfth meeting, 29 January 2022)

EB150(18) Award of the Sasakawa Health Prize

The Executive Board, having considered the report of the Sasakawa Health Prize Selection Panel,⁵ awarded the Sasakawa Health Prize for 2022 to Dr Paisan Ruamviboonsuk from Thailand for his work on diabetic retinopathy in Thailand. The laureate will receive a statuette and US\$ 30 000.

(Twelfth meeting, 29 January 2022)

¹ Document EB150/43, Annex.

² Document EB150/5.

³ See document EB150/5.

⁴ Document EB150/44, section 1.

⁵ Document EB150/44, section 2.