

Membership of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee

Report by the Secretariat

1. This document outlines options for the renewal of the terms of office of two of the members of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee (IEOAC).

2. In resolution EB125.R1, the Executive Board, *inter alia*, decided “to establish an Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee reporting to the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee of the Executive Board” and approved its terms of reference. The specified qualifications of its members are as follows:

- 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;
- members shall have an understanding and, if possible, relevant experience in the inspection, investigative process, monitoring and evaluation;
- 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.

3. In addition, the terms of reference stipulate that the composition of the Committee shall reflect the following parameters:

- committee membership should have a balanced representation of public and private-sector experience;
- at least one member shall be selected on the basis of his or her qualifications and experience as a senior professional or senior financial manager in the United Nations system or in another international organization;
- 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.

4. Paragraph 4 of the Committee's terms of reference stipulates that 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.

5. In resolution EB125.R1, the Board also decided that the initial members of the Committee would be appointed by the Executive Board at its 126th session in January 2010 and requested the Director-General to propose candidates for membership, as provided for in the terms of reference of the Committee. The Executive Board in January 2010 decided to appoint the following five individuals, as proposed by the Director-General:¹ Ms Marion Cowden (Australia/New Zealand), Mr John Fox (United States of America), Mr Graham Miller (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Ms H  l  ne Ploix (France), and Mr Veerathai Santiprabhob (Thailand).

6. Members of the Executive Board, in confirming the Director-General's proposals, acknowledged her efforts in ensuring that IEOAC meets all the criteria outlined above and expressed the hope that greater regional balance would be achieved in subsequent appointments to IEOAC.

7. Following the initial members' appointment by the Executive Board, it was determined by the Director-General, with the concurrence of the Committee, that Mr Graham Miller and Ms H  l  ne Ploix would have a two-year tenure, renewable for four years. Mr Miller was subsequently appointed by the members of the Committee as its Chair. These two-year terms come to an end in January 2012.

8. Since the establishment of the Committee, its work has been appreciated by Member States, as it has provided insights and recommendations on a range of financial management and oversight matters.

9. The Director-General proposes the following two options: (i) that the appointment of both Mr Graham Miller and Ms H  l  ne Ploix be renewed for four more years, bearing in mind the merits of stability and continuity in the membership of IEOAC at this stage of WHO reform, or (ii) that the two-year terms of Mr Miller and Ms Ploix not be renewed, in line with the need to give due regard to geographical representation and gender balance, with membership rotated among the regions to the extent possible.

10. The Director-General's preferred option is the first option in order to maintain continuity in this important committee at a critical time for the Organization. If this option were chosen, the Director-General would initiate, before the end of 2012, a comprehensive search for the three new members required to be appointed to the Committee in January 2014, with specific emphasis on hitherto unrepresented regions.

11. In the event that the Executive Board prefers the second option, the Director-General would propose, later in the 130th session, names to the Executive Board for its consideration, keeping in mind all relevant selection criteria.

¹ Decision EB126(1).

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

12. The Board is invited to discuss the above arrangements and decide on the Director-General's proposals regarding the renewal of IEOAC membership (see paragraph 9).

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