

Follow-up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination

Terms of reference of the expert committee on health research and development

Report by the Secretariat

1. In response to resolution WHA69.23 (2016), the following terms of reference of an Expert Committee on Health Research and Development are submitted to the Executive Board for its consideration.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EXPERT COMMITTEE

2. The Regulations for Expert Advisory Panels and Committees, as adopted by resolution WHA35.10 of the Thirty-fifth World Health Assembly, and its amendments,¹ shall govern the establishment and functioning of the Expert Committee, unless otherwise provided for in these terms of reference.

3. The terms of reference of the proposed Expert Committee are to provide technical advice to the Director-General on the prioritization of health research and development for Type II and III diseases and specific research and development needs of developing countries in relation to Type I diseases, as well as for potential areas where market failure exists.

4. The Expert Committee will base its advice, inter alia, on the analyses provided by the Global Observatory on Health Research and Development together with background documents, reviews and analyses prepared specifically for each meeting of the Expert Committee by the Secretariat or the experts of the Committee. The Expert Committee will, as needed, consult with all relevant stakeholders in carrying out its work.

5. More specifically, the members of the Expert Committee:

- (a) will develop background documents and/or presentations to be shared with the other members of the Expert Committee either before or during a meeting of the Expert Committee;

¹ <http://apps.who.int/gb/bd/PDF/bd48/basic-documents-48th-edition-en.pdf#page=127> (accessed 1 November 2016).

(b) based on the topics and health conditions covered by a meeting of the Expert Committee, may suggest that other stakeholders crucial for the discussion of particular agenda items be invited to participate;

(c) during meetings of the Expert Committee, will review and discuss the findings from all the materials presented and formulate their recommendations on the priority list of health products and technologies for research and development among those discussed in the meeting.

6. In its report of a meeting, the Expert Committee will summarize the reasons for each recommendation with reference to the underlying evidence. When insufficient evidence is available, the Expert Committee will specify that its recommendations are based on expert opinion and experience.

7. The priorities defined by the Expert Committee will be operationalized by the voluntary pooled fund for health research and development, whose work will include, inter alia: preparing calls for proposals by analysing product profile characteristics and the existing pipeline of products and technologies; evaluating and selecting projects best suited for funding; and monitoring and reviewing funded projects to measure progress and evaluate their impact potential. The core principles of affordability, effectiveness, efficiency, equity and the principle of delinkage will be applied.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

8. In line with the Regulations for Expert Advisory Panels and Committees, the Director-General shall establish the number of experts to be invited to a meeting of an expert committee, determine its date and duration, and convene the committee.

9. The Director-General shall select from one or more expert advisory panels the members of an expert committee on the basis of the principles of equitable geographical representation, gender balance, a balance of experts from developed and developing countries, representation of different trends of thought, approaches and practical experience in various parts of the world, and an appropriate interdisciplinary balance.

10. The remaining considerations concerning selection of expert committee members will be as described in the Regulations.

REPORTING TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

11. In line with paragraph 4.23 of the Regulations for Expert Advisory Panels and Committees, the Director-General shall submit to the Executive Board a report on the meeting or meetings of the Expert Committee held since the previous session of the Board.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

12. The Board is invited to consider these terms of reference.

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