
Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee: membership renewal

Appointment of new members

Report by the Director-General

1. The present report outlines the process followed by the Secretariat to select two new members of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee.
2. The terms of office of the current members of the Committee end as follows:¹
 - Mr Rob Becker (Kingdom of the Netherlands) – 31 December 2028;
 - Ms Aseya Galadari (Bahrain) – 30 April 2027;
 - Mr Greg Johnson (Switzerland/New Zealand) – 31 May 2027;
 - Ms Beatriz Sanz-Redrado (Spain/France) – 31 December 2027; and
 - Mr Darshak Shah (Kenya) – 31 December 2027.
3. Based on the above, one position will become vacant in June 2027 and two more in January 2028. In addition, Ms Galadari's term will be renewable for a second and final term of three years starting from 1 May 2027.
4. Ms Beatriz Sanz-Redrado has informed the Secretariat that her professional commitments prevent her from continuing to serve on the Committee and that she will leave effective from 30 June 2026. This will result in one vacancy having to be filled in 2026.
5. In view of the above, and in order to fill the vacancies that will arise in 2026 and 2027, the Board may wish to appoint, as members of the Committee, the two new candidates who emerged from the Director-General's current solicitation process, described below. The order in which they will do so is set out below and takes into account the established membership criteria, which

¹ See document EB155/10.

include due regard for the candidates' skills sets and for geographical and gender balance in terms of the current membership.

6. The current solicitation process followed the format of those that had proved successful in previous selection procedures, including placing advertisements on the online platforms of relevant journals and sending a request for proposals to the Geneva-based Permanent Missions to the United Nations of WHO Member States.² In response, the Secretariat received 91 applications (69 from men and 22 from women).

7. An initial screening, focusing primarily on education and qualifications, resulted in a short list of 31 candidates. The applications were evaluated in detail, taking into account experience in the following fields in order to ensure a balanced and complementary mix of relevant skills between existing and potential new members: risk management, ethics, accounting, audit and evaluation, financial management and other relevant areas (for example, strategic operational management and United Nations and/or international development experience). Due regard was consistently given to maintaining a satisfactory geographical and gender balance among Committee members.

8. On the basis of the initial screening, 12 candidates (6 men and 6 women) were invited to participate in a second screening by videoconference interviews. There were three candidates from the African Region, four from the Region of the Americas, two from the European Region, and one each from the Eastern Mediterranean Region, the South-East Asia Region and the Western Pacific Region. Following an assessment of any potential conflict of interest, the six top-ranked candidates were interviewed by videoconference in a second and final round of interviews by a panel consisting of the Chef de Cabinet, the Assistant Director-General for Business Operations and the Chair of the Committee. A second member of the Committee participated in some of the interviews as an observer.

9. Following the screening processes and an in-depth final round of interviews, the Director-General identified two candidates to be proposed to the Board: Ms Marian McMahon (Canada) and Dr Suresh Kana (South Africa).

10. A summary curriculum vitae for the two successful candidates is set out below for the Board's consideration.

² Note-verbale C.L.4.2026 (Membership of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee of the World Health Organization).

Ms Marian McMahon

Gender: Female
 Nationality: Canada
 Region: The Americas

Education and experience

Qualifications: Fellowship of the Chartered Accountants of Ontario; Chartered Financial Analyst; Chartered Professional Accountant (Canada); Bachelor of Arts – Economics (Queen’s University, Canada)

Experience: Chair, Audit Committee (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe); Vice-Chair, Audit Committee (United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund); Chair, Independent Oversight Advisory Committee (International Labour Organization); Treasurer and Chair, Governance Committee (Food Bank Board of Directors, Ottawa, Canada); Assistant Auditor General (Canada)

Dr Suresh Kana

Gender: Male
 Nationality: South Africa
 Region: African

Education and experience

Qualifications: Honorary Doctorate in Commerce, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (South Africa); Master of Commerce, University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa); Chartered Accountant (South Africa); Chartered Director (South Africa); Fellow at the Institute of Directors (South Africa); Professor of Accounting (University of Johannesburg, South Africa); Honorary Professor, Centre of Accounting (University of the Free State, South Africa)

Experience: Lead Independent Non-Executive Director, Valterra Platinum Limited and Nutun (South Africa); Trustee, Constitutional Court Trust (South Africa); Lead Independent Non-Executive Director, Johannesburg Stock Exchange Limited (South Africa); Trustee (International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation); Chair, Independent Oversight Advisory Committee (World Food Programme); Chair, Financial Reporting Standards Council (South Africa); Deputy Chair, Independent Regulatory Board of Auditors (South Africa); Chair, Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (South Africa); International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (South Africa); Chief Executive Officer and Territory Senior Partner, PwC (South Africa)

Action by the Executive Board

12. The Board is invited to note the report and to adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board, having considered the report by the Director-General on membership renewal of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee,³ taking into account the need to ensure continued expertise on the committee as well as maintain geographical and gender balance among Committee members,

Decided to appoint the following two new members to the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee for a three-year term of office renewable once, in the following order:

- Ms Marian McMahon (Canada) from 1 July 2026;
- Dr Suresh Kana (South Africa) from 1 June 2027.

³ Document EB159/9.