

Membership of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee

Report by the Director-General

1. This document outlines the process followed by the WHO Secretariat for selection of two new members of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee. At its 137th session in May 2015, the Executive Board adopted decision EB137(4) on the appointment of two Committee members whose non-renewable four-year term of office would end in April 2020. The incumbents are Dr Jeya Wilson (South Africa and New Zealand) and Mr Leonardo P. Gomes Pereira (Brazil).
2. In order to ensure continuity in membership, the search for the two candidates to replace the Committee members mentioned above began in the third quarter of 2019.
3. Following the selection procedure that had already proven successful during the four previous rounds of selection for the Committee in 2009, 2012, 2015 and 2017, an advertisement was placed in *The Economist*, with selection criteria that had originally been developed by an external specialist for that purpose. In addition, a request for proposals was also sent to the Geneva-based missions of the Organization's Member States and to contacts at international development banks. Two external consultants were then appointed to carry out the screening of candidates and draw up a recommended shortlist.
4. A total of 130 applications was received at the dedicated email address before the deadline of 15 September 2019. Of these, 98 were from men and 32 were from women. The applications came from all six WHO regions: 36 from the Region of the Americas, 36 from the European Region, 18 from the African Region, 18 from the South-East Asia Region, 11 from the Western Pacific Region and five from the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Six applications either had no curriculum vitae attached or did not state the applicant's nationality and could therefore not be assigned to any WHO region.
5. An initial screening, focusing on education and qualifications, relevant senior-level experience and relevant international experience reduced the number of eligible candidates to 55. Given the need for a balanced and complementary mix of relevant skills between existing and new Committee members, five desirable skills profiles were developed, focusing on the relevant experience and expertise in: risk management; change management; digital technology; international development and academia; and finance, including financial management, accounting and auditing. Due regard was also given to the need to retain a satisfactory geographical and gender balance among Committee members.
6. On the strength of this evaluation, the external consultants drew up a list of 17 top ranking candidates for a first round of short prescreening telephone interviews. A final shortlist of seven candidates was proposed for full-length interviews by the senior management team, including the Chef de Cabinet, the Assistant Director-General for Business Operations and the Comptroller ad interim. In

addition, the Chair of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee was invited to join the full-length interviews.

7. Once the multiple screening process and final interviews have been completed, the Director-General will propose the names of two candidates to replace the outgoing members of the Committee to the Executive Board.¹

8. The term of office of the other three members of the Committee ends as follows:

- Mr Christof Gabriel Maetze (Germany) and Mr Jayant Karia (Uganda) on 31 December 2021
- Mr Christopher Mihm (United States of America) on 31 December 2022.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

9. The Executive Board is invited to take note of this report.

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¹ See document EB146/42 Add.1.