

Membership of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee

Report by the Director-General

1. This report outlines the process followed by the Secretariat for selection of three new members of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee. At its 141st session in May 2017, the Executive Board adopted decision EB141(2) on the membership of the Committee, appointing two Committee members, namely Mr Christoph Maetze (Germany) and Mr Jayant Karia (Uganda) whose non-renewable four-year term of office would end in December 2021. In February 2020, at its 146th session the Executive Board adopted decision EB146(4) on the membership of the Committee, appointing inter alia two Committee members, Mr Bert Keuppens (Belgium) and Ms Vanessa Huang (Malaysia) for a four-year term of office starting on 1 May 2020.
2. Ms Huang has now withdrawn from the Committee to sit on WHO's Council on the Economics of Health for All. Consequently, a search for three candidates to replace those mentioned above began in the last quarter of 2020.
3. The procedures followed those that had already proven successful in prior selections, such as placing advertisements in relevant journals and sending a request for proposals to the Geneva-based permanent missions of the Organization's Member States. Two external consultants were then appointed to screen the 165 applications (132 male and 33 female) and establish a recommended shortlist.
4. An initial screening, focusing primarily on education and qualifications, reduced the number of candidates to be considered. The remaining applications were evaluated in more detail for experience in the following fields in order to ensure a balanced and complementary mix of relevant skills between existing and new members: audit, investigation, and evaluation; finance and treasury; risk management, including business continuity; information technology; change management; and other relevant areas (for example, international experience or exposure to international development work). Due regard was consistently given to the need to keep a satisfactory geographical and gender balance among Committee members.
5. On the basis of this screening, the external consultants drew up a list of 20 candidates (14 male and six female) for a first round of video-conference interviews. The candidates included three from the African Region, six from the Region of the Americas, one from the South-East Asia Region, seven from the European Region, two from the Eastern Mediterranean Region, and one from the Western Pacific Region. Eight candidates were to be interviewed following an assessment of any potential conflicts of interest. The full-length video interviews were conducted by the Assistant Director-General of Business Operations and the Chair of the Independent Expert Oversight Committee.

6. Following the final screening process and interviews of candidates, the Director-General will submit an addendum to this report in which he will propose the names of three candidates and invite the Executive Board, subject to its approval, to appoint them to replace the three outgoing members of the Committee.¹ The terms of the remaining two members of the Committee end as follows:

- Mr Christopher Mihm (United States of America) on 31 December 2022.
- Mr Bert Keuppens (Belgium) on 30 April 2024.

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

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¹ Document EB149/9 Add.1.