

Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee: membership renewal

Extension of terms of office and appointment of new members

Report by the Director-General

1. The present report outlines the process followed by the Secretariat to operationalize the revised terms of reference of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee,¹ with particular focus on presenting transitional measures for the current membership of the Committee and the selection of new members.

2. At its 150th session in January 2022, the Executive Board adopted the revised terms of reference of the Committee,² which state, inter alia, that members of the Committee shall be appointed for a term of three years, renewable for a second and final term of three years.

3. In order to align the term of office of the current Committee members with the maximum time limit of six years under the revised terms of reference, the Board may wish to consider implementing transitional measures whereby the maximum total duration of a member's term of office (that is, six years) under the revised terms of reference would apply also to the current Committee members. This would involve extending the term of office of current members to bring the total duration of time served by each member to six years. Such an extension would be subject to the availability of the current Committee members.

4. Subject to their availability, the term of office of the current members of the Committee would then be extended as follows:

- Mr Greg Johnson (Switzerland/New Zealand), from 30 April 2024 to 31 May 2027;
- Mr Bert Keuppens (Belgium), from 30 April 2024 to 30 April 2026;
- Mr Darshak Shah (Kenya), from 31 December 2025 to 31 December 2027;
- Ms Beatriz Sanz-Redrado (Spain/France), from 31 December 2025 to 31 December 2027; and
- Mr Rob Becker (Netherlands, Kingdom of the), from 31 December 2026 to 31 December 2028.

¹ See document EB150/2022/REC/1, Annex 5.

² See decision EB150(16) (2022).

5. In order to address the eventuality that one or more of the current members may not be available to serve an extended term, the Board may wish to appoint, as new members to the Committee, the two top-ranked candidates from the Director-General's current solicitation process, described below. These new members would take office only as and when a vacancy arises on the Committee, subject to their continued availability. The order in which the two new members would take office is set out below and takes into account the established membership criteria, which includes due regard to gender and geographical balance.

6. The current solicitation process followed the format of those that had proved successful in previous selection procedures, such as 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.¹ In response to the call, the Secretariat received 83 applications (69 from men and 14 from women).

7. 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, 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 keep a satisfactory geographical and gender balance among Committee members.

8. On the basis of the screening, 21 candidates (13 men and 8 women) were invited to participate in a first round of videoconference interviews. The candidates included four from the African Region, five from the Region of the Americas, two from the South-East Asia Region, three from the European Region, three from the Eastern Mediterranean Region, and four from the Western Pacific Region. Following an assessment of any potential conflict of interest, the five top-ranked candidates were to be 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.

9. Following the screening processes and in-depth final round of interviews, the Director-General identified two candidates to be proposed to the Board: Ms Aseya Galadari (Bahrain) and Mr Brian McCartan (United States of America).

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

¹ C.L.35.2023 (Membership of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee of the World Health Organization).

Ms Aseya Galadari

Gender: Female
Nationality: Bahraini
Region: Eastern Mediterranean

Education and experience

Qualifications: Certified Public Accountant licensed by the California Board of Accountancy; MSc Strategic FinTech, School of Business, University of Strathclyde (Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); MBA, DePaul University, Kellstadt Graduate School of Business (Chicago, United States of America); BSc Accountancy, University of Bahrain (Bahrain).

Experience: Country Head of Audit (and Member of the Executive Committee, Asset Liability Management Committee, Risk Committee, Compliance and Financial Crime Committee) at the Standard Chartered Bank of Bahrain; Head of Audit & Risk at the Venture Capital Bank of Bahrain; Finance Directorate at IMF and the Arab Monetary Fund (Abu Dhabi); Senior Audit Manager at the Ahli United Bank (Bahrain); Senior Bank Examiner at the Central Bank of Bahrain; Senior Auditor at Ernst & Young (Bahrain).

Mr Brian McCartan

Gender: Male
Nationality: of the United States of America
Region: The Americas

Education and experience

Qualifications: MA International Relations (Finance & Economics), Yale University (United States of America); BA Philosophy & Political Science, University of Washington (United States of America).

Experience: Vice President for Finance at the University of Washington, Seattle (United States of America); Accredited Financial Management Consultant at IFAD (Rome, Italy); Executive Director, Finance and Information Technology at the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (Sound Transit, Seattle, United States of America); Debt Manager, City of Seattle (United States of America); International Economist at the United States Department of the Treasury (Washington, DC, United States of America); Member of the Audit Committee for the Pac-12 Conference (San Francisco, United States of America); Board member and Finance Chair at Portage Bay Insurance Company (Seattle, United States of America); Board member, Evaluation, Audit and Advisory Committee at ICAO (Montreal, Canada).

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

The Executive Board, having considered the report of the Director-General on membership renewal of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee,¹

Decided:

(1) to extend the term of office of the current members of the Independent Expert Oversight Advisory Committee as follows, subject to her or his availability:

- Mr Greg Johnson (Switzerland/New Zealand), from 30 April 2024 to 31 May 2027;
- Mr Bert Keuppens (Belgium), from 30 April 2024 to 30 April 2026;
- Mr Darshak Shah (Kenya), from 31 December 2025 to 31 December 2027;
- Ms Beatriz Sanz-Redrado (Spain/France), from 31 December 2025 to 31 December 2027; and
- Mr Rob Becker (Netherlands, Kingdom of the), from 31 December 2026 to 31 December 2028.

(2) 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 order of priority which follows:

- Ms Aseya Galadari (Bahrain);
- Mr Brian McCartan (United States of America).

Their term will begin when a vacancy on the Committee arises, subject to their continued availability.

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¹ Document EB154/41.