

Report on meetings of expert committees and study groups

Expert advisory panels and committees and their membership

Report by the Director-General¹

ESTABLISHMENT OR DISESTABLISHMENT OF EXPERT ADVISORY PANELS

1. The following panels were disestablished:
 - (a) panel on Nursing, in November 2022; and
 - (b) panel on Leprosy, in May 2023.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXPERT ADVISORY PANELS

2. Membership of the 21 expert advisory panels totalled 351 in November 2023, compared with 345 in November 2022. In terms of regional distribution of members, 13% come from the African Region, 23% from the Region of the Americas, 10% from the South-East Asia Region, 30% from the European Region, 9% from the Eastern Mediterranean Region and 15% from the Western Pacific Region. Of the total of all members of all panels, 41% are women.
3. The annexed list of all panels includes a breakdown of members by panel, region and sex, as at November 2023. Further details (lists of experts by region and country) are available on request.

MEETINGS OF EXPERT COMMITTEES

4. The following committees met in 2023:
 - (a) Expert Committee on Biological Standardization (Seventy-seventh meeting)
Coordinated from WHO headquarters, Geneva, and took place virtually, 20–24 March 2023
(21 members: 10 men, 11 women);

¹ This report is submitted to the Executive Board in compliance with regulation 4.23 of the Regulations for Expert Advisory Panels and Committees.

(b) Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essentials Medicines (Twenty-fourth meeting)
WHO headquarters, Geneva, 24–28 April 2023
(15 members: six men, nine women);

(c) Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (Ninety-sixth meeting)
WHO headquarters, Geneva, 27 June–6 July 2023
(nine members: five men, four women);

(d) Expert Committee on Specifications for Pharmaceutical Preparations (Fifty-seventh meeting)
Coordinated from WHO headquarters, Geneva, and took place virtually, 9–13 October 2023
(19 members: 11 men, eight women);

(e) Expert Committee on Biological Standardization (Seventy-eighth meeting)
Coordinated from WHO headquarters, Geneva, and took place virtually, 16–19 October 2023
(17 members: 10 men, seven women);

(f) Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (Forty-sixth meeting)
WHO headquarters, Geneva, 16–19 October 2023
(12 members: six men, six women); and

(g) Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (Ninety-seventh meeting)
FAO headquarters, Rome, 31 October–9 November 2023
(six members: four men, two women).

5. Invitations to take part in these meetings were extended to 99 panel members from 38 countries, drawn from nine expert advisory panels. Nine members were unable to attend.

ANNEX

WHO EXPERT ADVISORY PANELS, MEMBERSHIP BY PANEL, REGION AND SEX¹

WHO expert advisory panels	Africa			The Americas			South-East Asia			Europe			Eastern Mediterranean			Western Pacific			Total		
	N	[W]		N	[W]		N	[W]		N	[W]		N	[W]		N	[W]		N	[W]	
Biological Standardization	4	[1]		6	[5]		8	[4]		6	[1]		3	[3]		4	[1]		31	[15]	48%
Blood Transfusion Medicine	4	[3]		4	[3]		3	[1]		3	[1]		3	[1]		4	[2]		21	[11]	52%
Drug Dependence (Dependence Liability Evaluation)	2	[2]		4	[2]		2	[2]		4	[2]		1	[1]		4	[1]		17	[10]	59%
Drug Dependence and Alcohol Problems	1	[0]		2	[0]		0	[0]		4	[1]		2	[1]		7	[0]		16	[2]	12%
Drug Evaluation	9	[6]		14	[6]		10	[7]		19	[7]		7	[1]		6	[3]		65	[30]	46%
Drug Policies and Management	3	[1]		1	[1]		0	[0]		1	[1]		0	[0]		0	[0]		5	[3]	60%
Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness and Prevention	0	[0]		0	[0]		0	[0]		0	[0]		0	[0]		0	[0]		0	[0]	0%
Food Safety	1	[0]		13	[5]		0	[0]		11	[5]		0	[0]		3	[1]		28	[11]	39%
Health Laboratory Services	0	[0]		2	[1]		0	[0]		4	[1]		2	[0]		0	[0]		8	[2]	25%
International Pharmacopoeia and Pharmaceutical Preparations	10	[1]		13	[9]		4	[1]		30	[11]		5	[3]		13	[2]		75	[27]	36%
Medicine Safety	1	[0]		4	[2]		0	[0]		2	[1]		0	[0]		1	[0]		8	[3]	38%
Parasitic Diseases – Filarial Infections	2	[2]		2	[0]		2	[1]		3	[2]		0	[0]		1	[1]		10	[6]	60%

¹ Membership as at November 2023, where N is the number of panel members, [W] is the number of women members and % is the percentage of women panel members, by panel and region.

WHO expert advisory panels	Africa			The Americas			South-East Asia			Europe			Eastern Mediterranean			Western Pacific			Total		
	N	[W]		N	[W]		N	[W]		N	[W]		N	[W]		N	[W]		N	[W]	
Parasitic Diseases – Leishmaniasis	2	[2]		2	[2]		3	[1]		1	[0]		1	[0]		0	[0]		9	[5]	56%
Parasitic Diseases – Trypanosomiasis	3	[0]		3	[2]		0	[0]		6	[1]		0	[0]		0	[0]		12	[3]	25%
Rabies	1	[0]		2	[1]		2	[0]		1	[0]		1	[1]		1	[1]		8	[3]	38%
Radiation	0	[0]		0	[0]		0	[0]		0	[0]		0	[0]		0	[0]		0	[0]	0%
Rehabilitation	0	[0]		2	[2]		1	[1]		1	[1]		1	[0]		0	[0]		5	[4]	80%
Surgical Care and Anaesthesia	1	[0]		2	[1]		0	[0]		2	[2]		1	[0]		1	[0]		7	[3]	43%
Traditional and Complementary Medicine	1	[0]		3	[1]		1	[0]		2	[0]		1	[0]		7	[1]		15	[2]	13%
Vector Biology and Control	0	[0]		0	[0]		0	[0]		5	[2]		1	[0]		1	[1]		7	[3]	43%
Zoonoses	1	[0]		0	[0]		0	[0]		2	[1]		1	[1]		0	[0]		4	[2]	50%
Total^a	46	[18]	39%	79	[43]	54%	36	[18]	50%	107	[40]	37%	30	[12]	40%	53	[14]	26%	351	[145]	41%

^a This shows the total number of experts. Members with more than one nationality are listed in all relevant panels; however, they are counted only once in this total.