Joint Process on Global Health Architecture Reform

Terms of Reference – Joint Task Force

WHO Member States Consultation

26 June 2026

Joint Task Force on GHA Reform – Terms of Reference



DG Circular Letter
to Member States
22 May

Structure:

1. Background
2. Purpose & Objectives
3. **Functions & Deliverables**
4. **Membership & Selection**
5. **Method of Work**
6. Duration & Timeline

Annex

1. Background

The GHA has contributed substantively to improving health & wellbeing, but the world has changed … and power imbalances, fragmentation & duplication now limit country ownership & impact…

…79th WHA established 1-year MS-led, WHO-hosted, Joint Process on GHA Reform with UN entities, GHIs, World Bank & regional health organizations, in consultation with civil society & other stakeholders….

…to support the transformation of the GHA into a more country-led, coherent & inclusive ecosystem.

2. Purpose & Objectives

To develop options, recommendations & an implementation roadmap for governing bodies of WHO & partner organizations, for the 3 objectives:

- **functions, mandates & capacities** – to enhance alignment & address gaps across levels
- **coordination & decision-making** – to strengthen collaboration & accountability across levels
- **financing** – to align with national self-reliance agendas, regional functions & GPHGs

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Scope:

- global (all countries & settings)
- national, regional, global levels
- all essential GHA functions
- current & future health priorities

3. Functions & Deliverables (1 of 2)

- **establish workplan & finalize method of work** - in line with Joint Process principles

- **develop specific outputs** - in support of the 3 Joint Process objectives

mapping of:
- essential GHA functions at global, regional, country levels
- mandates & capacities of major GHA actors
- current GHA governance & collaboration mechanisms
- current financing flows for GHA functions

options to:
- address overlaps & gaps for essential GHA functions
- enhance coordination & decision-making within/across levels
- improve financing for national plans & aid transitions and key regional & global functions

3. Functions & Deliverables (2 of 2)

- **engage in monthly Member State consultations**

  - on development of options & recommendations

  - to ensure MS perspectives inform Task Force on ongoing basis

  - including inputs between consultations (e.g. written)

  - supplemented by: at least bimonthly meetings with WHO CSO Commission & Youth Council
    at least quarterly engagement with broader stakeholders, per WHA79(20)

- **brief governing bodies of Task Force partner organizations** - as applicable

- **develop 2 reports** – interim & final for partner governing bodies & WHA

4. **Membership & Selection** – *Joint Task Force Members*

Up to **25 members**:

- 14 Member States (2 per WHO Region + 2 Co-Chairs)
- WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, +1
- Global Fund, Gavi, UNITAID, Pandemic Fund, CEPI
- World Bank
- 1 regional health organization representative

NOTE: a 4th UN entity representative may be invited by consensus of the Task Force

4. Membership & Selection - *Profile of Task Force Members*

Collective criteria:

geography, gender, institutional perspectives

context (esp. LICs/LMICs) & specials settings (e.g. SIDs)

Individual criteria:

- senior leadership experience in health
- substantial expertise relevant to GHA reform
- strategic and systems-level analyses
- multilateral processes & consensus-building
- commitment to equity & country ownership
- independence & integrity

Annex: provides examples of the expected level & nature of the experience, competencies & skills of potential Task Force members for each attribute.

4. Membership & Selection – *Selection of Members*

Timeline:

week of 22 June	WHO Director-General invites nominees
15 July 2026	nominations from Member States, partners
31 July	Task Force appointed by Director-General

Process:

Member States	- WHO Regional Offices receive/review nominations - consult with regional Member States & HQ to facilitate balance - provide list of 3 country representatives (2 members + alternate)
GHIs/UN/WB:	- WHO HQ receives/reviews nominations against criteria
Regional health organization:	- WHO HQ receives/reviews nominations against criteria - also considers capacity to reflect perspectives of different geographies

4. Membership & Selection – *Selection of Co-Chairs*

Process:

- selected by the 12 country representatives of Task Force
- dedicated meeting convened by the Director-General
- within 2 weeks of establishing Task Force (i.e. by mid-August)

Attributes:

- 1 each from a developing & a developed country
- 2 different WHO Regions
- understanding of global health governance
- ability to build consensus across diversity
- strong facilitation & communication skills
- impartiality, integrity & inclusive leadership

5. Method of Work (1 of 2)

Meetings at least monthly; in-person & virtual; duration determined by Task Force

Language
- working language of Task Force will be English
- Member States consultations in 6 official languages (resources permitting)
- Task Force reports (interim & final) in 6 official languages

Methods
- will make maximum use of existing evidence & analysis
- can commission additional analysis as required
- may establish Working Groups or other arrangements (e.g. for objectives)
- such arrangements can draw on partners & experts, particularly civil society

5. Method of Work (2 of 2)

Ongoing inputs

- UN80 Initiative
- Lusaka Agenda
- Accra Reset High-Level Panel on Reform of the GHA & Governance
- African High-level Ministerial Committee on GHA Reform (AHLMC)
- Health Architecture Reimagined - Civil Society Organizations (HEAR CSO)
- other initiatives as deemed appropriate by Task Force

TF positions

- on basis of consensus
- in absence of consensus: majority position of countries prevails
  dissenting opinion documented

Secretariat

- to be provided by WHO (in line with WHA costing)
- separate & distinct from WHO position on/contribution to Task Force

6. Duration & Timeline

- Task Force to be established by 31 July 2026
- will operate through May 2027 (i.e. 80th World Health Assembly)
- will follow phases in WHA Decision & final Task Force workplan

Guiding questions

- clarifications on the Task Force ToRs?
- clarifications on next steps through Jul/Aug?
- support for Member States in the nomination phase?