

ONCHOCERCIASIS CONTROL PROGRAMME
IN THE VOLTA RIVER BASIN AREA

OCP/STAC 1.10

WHO ONCHOCERCIASIS CONTROL PROGRAMME (OCP)

Technical Advisory Committee (OCP/TAC)

Introduction

The Governments of Dahomey, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Togo and Upper Volta concluded, on 1 November 1973, an Agreement with the World Health Organization for the implementation of the twenty-year Onchocerciasis Control Programme in the Volta River basin area, and agreed to the Organization serving as Executing Agency. It was agreed that the Organization would be assisted in that endeavour by a specially established Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP).

Twelve members of the Panel, specialized in the main scientific and technical fields concerned by the Programme activities, will be appointed by the Organization to form the Onchocerciasis Control Programme Technical Advisory Committee (OCP/TAC).

The Onchocerciasis Control Programme Technical Advisory Committee is established to assist the Organization in the permanent scientific and technical evaluation of the plans and operations of the Programme and its associated training and research activities.

The members of the OCP/TAC are specialists who undertake to contribute without remuneration, each in his own field, to the evaluation of the Programme.

Purpose and Functions of the Technical Advisory Committee

The purpose and functions of the Committee shall be:

- to review the latest knowledge and scientific information available in all fields related to the Onchocerciasis Control Programme and to make it available to the Organization;
- to analyse and comment on the technical and scientific reports of the Programme and plans of action;
- to make recommendations designed to improve the planning of the Programme and the implementation of its activities.

The Committee shall not advise the Organization on questions of administrative policy and its conclusions and recommendations on technical and scientific matters shall not commit the Organization.

Selection, Appointment and Term of Office of Members

The members of the Committee shall be selected by the Director-General from among the members of the OCP/SAP on the basis of their ability and experience.

In view of the great flexibility required in the planning and operations of the Programme, members of the Committee shall be appointed for a period of two years without prejudice to reappointment.

All members of the Committee shall be convened in consultation with the Chairman of the TAC to attend the periodic meetings which will be held at least twice a year. The Organization may organize additional meetings. The Organization will make arrangements for members of the TAC to visit the Programme area if necessary.

In accordance with the administrative regulations of the Organization, a member of the OCP/TAC attending the periodic meetings of the Committee, or any working group session of the OCP/SAP to which he may have been convened, shall be entitled to a refund of travelling expenses necessitated by their attendance and also to a daily living allowance during such meetings and sessions.

International Status of Members

In the exercise of their functions the members of the OCP/TAC shall act as international experts serving the Programme exclusively; in that capacity they may not request or receive instructions from any governments or other authority.

They shall enjoy the privileges and immunities envisaged in Article 67 (b) of the Constitution of the Organization and set forth in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies and in Annex VII thereof.

Committee Sessions, Secretariatship and Reports

The OCP Support Unit at the Organization Headquarters shall provide the Secretariat at all Committee meetings and shall arrange the time and place of each session and shall convene the members.

At each session the Committee shall elect a Chairman from its members to direct its debates, and one (or two) rapporteur(s). The chairman may be reappointed.

The working languages of the OCP/TAC shall be English and French.

At each session the Committee shall draw up a report setting forth its findings, observations and recommendations. Such reports shall be forwarded by WHO, with its comments thereon, to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee shall transmit the reports, with its observations, to the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC)¹⁾ not less than thirty days before the Joint Coordinating Committee's annual meeting.

1) The Joint Coordinating Committee is composed of representatives of the seven Participating Governments of all Contributing Parties and of the four Sponsoring Agencies.