



TERMS OF REFERENCE

WHO Expert Advisory Group (EAG)

The second review of the relevance and effectiveness of the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel

Background

On 21 May 2010, the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel (the “Code”) was adopted via consensus by WHO Member States in Resolution WHA63.16.

Article 9.5 of the Code provides that the World Health Assembly “should periodically review the relevance and effectiveness of the Code” and that the “Code should be considered a dynamic text that should be brought up to date as required.” To fulfill the Code’s directive for periodic review, Member States via Resolution WHA 63.16:

(a) decided that the first review of the relevance and effectiveness of the Code shall be made by the 68th World Health Assembly; and

(b) based upon periodic reporting, requested the Director General, to make proposals, if necessary, for the revision of the text of the Code, in line with the first review, and for measures needed for its effective application.

Following review of the Expert Advisory Group report (A 68/32 Add.1), the 68th World Health Assembly “recognized the relevance of the Code” and “decided that the further assessment of the relevance and assessment of the Code should be considered in line with the 3rd round of national reporting in 2018 and the scheduled progress report to the 72nd World Health Assembly in 2019” (WHA 68(11)).

2nd Review of Code Relevance and Effectiveness

The Director General’s report to the 72nd World Health Assembly (A 72/23) identifies the process for the 2nd review of Code relevance and effectiveness. The 2nd review is to be conducted during the period May to October 2019, with finding to be submitted to the 73rd World Health Assembly. Notably, the 73rd World Health Assembly marks the 10th anniversary of the WHO Global Code.

To facilitate the review process, the Director-General has constituted a WHO Expert Advisory Group consisting of 12 Member State representatives and eight individual experts. Two co-chairpersons are to be elected from the group.

WHO Expert Advisory Group Responsibilities

The WHO Expert Advisory Group has the following responsibilities:

- Review evidence consolidated by the Secretariat and assess the Code's relevance and effectiveness;
- Provide guidance on measure needed to ensure and strengthen the Code's relevance and effectiveness; and
- Submit a report of the EAG's findings and recommendations to the Director-General in advance of the 146th session of the Executive Board.

Definitions

As per the first review, it is proposed that the WHO Expert Advisory Group review covers the following:

- **Relevance:** the extent to which the objectives, principles and articles of the Code continue to be pertinent and can inform solutions related to the global challenges of the migration of health personnel and health systems strengthening.
- **Effectiveness:** the extent to which the implementation of the Code's objectives, principles and articles have influenced actions and policies concerning health workforce strengthening (such as those related to health workforce information systems, planning, education and retention strategies) at country, regional and global levels.

Process and timeline

The WHO Secretariat will provide support to the work of the WHO Expert Advisory Group. A first meeting of the WHO EAG will be organized from June 18 - 20 2019 to present evidence and initiate discussions related to terms of reference. A second meeting will be organized in October 2019 to finalize the report to the Director General. Other communication will take place by teleconferences as needed.
