



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



UN
environment
programme



World Health
Organization



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ONE HEALTH HIGH LEVEL EXPERT PANEL (OHHLEP)

These Terms of Reference for the One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) are agreed to by the Quadripartite (FAO, UNEP, WOAH, and WHO).

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (“FAO”) is the leading organization within the United Nations system in the field of food and agriculture, and has as a major area of focus of its global mandate improving nutrition, increasing agricultural productivity, raising the standard of living in rural populations, and contributing to global economic growth, worldwide;

The United Nations Environment Programme (“UNEP”) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations System, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment;

The World Organisation for Animal Health (“WOAH”) is the intergovernmental organisation responsible, inter alia, for developing international standards in animal health, veterinary public health, zoonoses and animal welfare, ensuring transparent dissemination of official information on animal health status, and strengthening veterinary services; and

The World Health Organization (“WHO”) is the directing and coordinating authority on international health work within the United Nations system and provides leadership, inter alia, on improving nutrition, promoting safe, healthy and sustainable diets and preventing zoonotic disease, through science based guidance and technical support to countries.

I. PURPOSE

1. Recognizing the complex and interdisciplinary challenges raised at the interface of human, animal and ecosystem health (“One Health”) that require enhanced coordination and collaboration among sectors and agencies, nationally and internationally, the One Health High-Level Expert Panel (“OHHLEP”) provides guidance on One Health-related matters that support improved cooperation among governments.

The One Health High Level Expert Panel operates independently from the Global Leaders Group (GLG) on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action Against AMR. The Quadripartite with the lead responsibility for providing secretariat services to the OHHLEP as described under paragraph 20 shall ensure appropriate coordination and exchange of information between OHHLEP and these AMR bodies, as well as other initiatives

set up under the Quadripartite collaboration including circulating the findings and reports, as appropriate.

2. The OHHLEP's advice will support the work performed by the Quadripartite in the framework of their One Health collaboration.

3. The OHHLEP has an advisory role to the Quadripartite and is expected to provide advice to the Quadripartite to support their provision of evidence-based scientific and policy advice to address the challenges at the interface of human, animal and ecosystem health.

II. AREAS OF FOCUS

4. The areas of focus of the OHHLEP will be subject to regular review by the Quadripartite and detailed deliverables will be set out in workplans for each term. The One Health High Level Expert Panel will focus on:

- 1) providing the Quadripartite with guidance on implementation of the One Health Joint Plan of Action by informing the development of evidence-based One Health policies, tools and metrics to support implementation and measurement, and through the identification of One Health research gaps;
- 2) providing the Quadripartite with policy relevant scientific assessment on the drivers of emergence and re-emergence of health threats at the human-animal-ecosystem interface;
- 3) providing the Quadripartite with recommendations on specific issues identified by the Quadripartite in the areas of highest concern for attention, action, and future direction in One Health.

The advice of the One Health High Level Expert Panel will contribute to enhancing strategic orientations and coordination, and to providing high political visibility, accountability, and actions related to One Health.

5. Reports of each meeting containing recommendations of OHHLEP shall be addressed to the respective Heads of the Quadripartite responsible for One Health. The OHHLEP Experts will seek to agree on the recommendations to the Quadripartite to be reflected in its reports. If, in exceptional circumstances, they are unable to agree on a particular issue, minority views may be reflected in the meeting report when requested by the Expert concerned. The Partners shall decide on the actions to be taken regarding any advice or recommendations made by the OHHLEP. The outputs of the OHHLEP are jointly owned by the Quadripartite. Without prejudice to the advisory nature of OHHLEP recommendations, regular updates of OHHLEP activities shall normally be published on the Quadripartite websites and/or communicated to the public in other forms, as appropriate.

III. MEMBERSHIP

Expertise and status of the Experts

6. The OHHLEP will have up to 30 Experts who shall serve in their personal capacities to represent the broad range of disciplines, sectors, and fields relevant to the tasks of the OHHLEP, with expertise in at least one of the three pathways of change laid out in the One Health Joint Plan of Action, which represent the areas where the four organizations have the greatest capacity to bring about significant and sustainable change.

- **Pathway 1: Policy, legislation, advocacy and financing** – encompasses all aspects of policy development, political will, enabling regulatory frameworks, investment and the institutionalization of intersectoral governance. *This requires expertise in but not limited to intersectoral governance and systems approaches; political science, international law; economics and finance; social and behavioural sciences, anthropology, ethics and gender studies.*
- **Pathway 2: Organizational development, implementation and sectoral integration** – encompasses all aspects of the implementation of One Health, including the scaling up of capacity development at regional and country level, community engagement and mobilization for action, multisectoral coordination, collaboration and communication, and the equitable integration of sectors. *This requires expertise in but not limited to health systems policy and practice, pandemic prevention and preparedness; environmental, forestry, biodiversity, agriculture, and ecosystem sciences; food systems and their interlinkages with health.*
- **Pathway 3: Data, evidence and knowledge** – encompasses the strengthening of the scientific evidence base, knowledge translation into data for evidence, technical tools, protocols and guidelines, information and surveillance systems. *This requires expertise in but not limited to emerging infectious diseases and zoonoses; viral diversity, surveillance and risk assessment for emerging pandemic threats; infectious disease epidemiology, informatics, modelling, prediction and foresight relevant to assessing impacts of environmental and other changes in emerging diseases and health.*

7. Experts must respect the impartiality and independence required by the Partners. They must be free of any real, potential or apparent conflicts of interest. OHHLEP Experts have an ongoing obligation to disclose any interests, real or perceived, that may give rise to a real, potential or apparent conflict of interest.

8. OHHLEP Experts are not employees or agents of the Quadripartite and shall not speak on behalf of, or represent, the Quadripartite, individually or collectively, to any third party. OHHLEP Experts may not issue any publications, statements or opinions on behalf of the OHHLEP and/or the Quadripartite without former agreement from the Quadripartite.

Terms of office and selection

9. In the selection of Experts, consideration shall be given to attaining an adequate distribution of technical expertise, geographical representation and gender balance.
10. Experts of the OHHLEP, including the Chairperson(s), will be selected and appointed through consultations among the Quadripartite, following a public call for interest.
11. Experts of the OHHLEP shall be appointed to serve for a period of two (2) years and shall be eligible for reappointment. An Expert can only serve as Chairperson for two term(s).
12. The appointments of Experts, including the Chairperson(s), may be terminated at any time as agreed by the Quadripartite and in line with the applicable letter of appointment signed jointly by the Partners.
13. The Quadripartite will review ongoing membership of any Expert who is unable to participate in two consecutive meetings and will consult with that Expert, as appropriate.

IV. OPERATION

14. Experts of the OHHLEP do not receive any remuneration for any work related to the OHHLEP. However, when attending in-person meetings, their travel cost and per diem shall be covered by the Quadripartite and processed through the Quadripartite with the lead responsibility for providing secretariat services to the OHHLEP as described under paragraph 20.
15. The OHHLEP shall normally meet three times each year. Additional meetings may be convened. OHHLEP meetings may be held in person or virtually. The working language of the OHHLEP will be English.
16. OHHLEP meetings may be held in open and/or closed session, as decided by the Chairperson in consultation with the Quadripartite.
 - a) Open sessions: Open sessions shall be convened for the sole purpose of the exchange of non- confidential information and views, and may be attended by OHHLEP Experts, representatives of the Quadripartite and Observers.
 - b) Closed sessions: The sessions dealing with the formulation of recommendations and/or advice to the Partners shall be restricted to the OHHLEP Experts and representatives of the Quadripartite.

17. In order to conduct its business, at least two-thirds of the Experts should be present at a session.

18. The Quadripartite may invite external individuals from time to time to attend the open sessions of the OHHLEP, or parts thereof, as “Observers”. Observers may be invited either in their personal capacity, or as representatives from a governmental institution / intergovernmental organization, or from a non-state actor on such conditions that the Quadripartite may agree.

19. The OHHLEP may decide to establish smaller working groups (sub-groups of the OHHLEP) to work on specific issues. Their deliberations shall take place via teleconference or video-conference. The outcome of their deliberations will be submitted to the OHHLEP for review at one of its meetings.

V. MISCELLANEOUS

20. The Quadripartite shall provide necessary scientific and technical support to the OHHLEP. Also, the Quadripartite shall provide secretariat services to the OHHLEP. For administrative purposes, the responsibility to lead the provision of these secretariat services will rotate between the Quadripartite and the rules, policies and procedures of the Quadripartite Organization with the leading responsibility will apply to any administrative matters for the Experts, pertaining to the operation of the OHHLEP.

21. Information and documentation to which Experts may gain access in performing OHHLEP-related activities shall be considered as confidential and proprietary to the Quadripartite and/or parties collaborating with them and OHHLEP Experts shall only quote from, circulate or use OHHLEP documents in the context of the discharge of their functions with OHHLEP.

22. Any matters relating to the functioning of OHHLEP that are not covered by these Terms of Reference or stated in a formal agreement among the Quadripartite, shall be subject to discussion and agreement among the Quadripartite.