

**Call for experts
to participate in a UNEP & WHO expert group on the State of the Science Report on
Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs)**

Issued: 29 May 2024

Application Deadline: **28 June 2024 at midnight CET**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are seeking experts to serve as members of an expert group on endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), in the context of updating of the report entitled "State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals 2012"¹. The present call for experts provides information about the expert group in question, the expert profiles being sought, as well as the application and selection processes.

1. Background

Responding to the requests by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the World Health Assembly (WHA)², UNEP and WHO initiated a process to update the report entitled "State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals 2012". This work is foreseen to take place between the third quarter of 2024 and the last quarter of 2025 in order for the report to be made available to the seventh session of UNEA in December 2025.

To guide and support the process, an expert group will be established, composed of representatives from relevant backgrounds. Expertise sought may include, but not be limited to:

- Human health: endocrinology, toxicology including reproductive and developmental toxicology, epidemiology, human biomonitoring, public health
- Environmental sciences, ecotoxicology, ecology, environmental monitoring, chemistry, risk assessment
- Legal, political, social, and economic sciences in the context of chemicals and waste management, or more specifically, of EDCs.

The size of the group will be kept moderate to ensure efficiency and streamlined communication, while allowing flexibility for the leveraging of specific expertise as needed.

2. Objective of the call

The objective of the call is to identify qualified experts who are willing to serve as a member of the expert group for the update of the "State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals 2012". The group's anticipated main tasks will be:

- to provide inputs on the overall proposed approach, including the scope, outline and methodology of the report (noting that the report will be drafted by contractor(s) and selected authors),
- to provide guidance on relevant scientific data to be collected, as well as its quality and suitability,
- to review the draft versions of the report.

¹ UNEP and WHO (2013). State of the science of endocrine disrupting chemicals 2012

² UNEA resolution 5/7 and WHA resolution 76.17

Online and face-to-face consultation meetings will be organized by UNEP in cooperation with WHO. Intersessional exchanges with the group will happen through electronic means, as necessary.

Meetings of the expert group will be conducted in English. The expert group will be chaired by a chair or two co-chairs to be selected from amongst the group members. As deemed necessary, discussions may also be convened in sub-groups to cover specific areas of work.

3. Basic and essential qualifications of experts

Experts to be part of the group should hold an advanced university degree(s) in one or more of the relevant fields noted above.

They should also have:

- Track record of scientific excellence in the subject matter evidenced by publications in peer-reviewed specialized journals or technical reports from public bodies,
- Demonstrated track record in effectively translating research findings into practical, actionable knowledge; and/or
- Proven professional experience in relation to endocrine disrupting chemicals, including one or more of the following technical areas:
 - Assessment of EDCs, associated exposure, and alternatives, at the national or international level
 - Life cycles, environmental exposures, and environmental effects
 - Impacts on human health and ecosystems
 - Non-traditional pathways
 - EATS (estrogen, androgen, thyroid, and steroidogenesis) and non-EATS evaluation
 - Experience with relevant epidemiological studies and/or longitudinal birth cohort studies
 - Development of relevant policy and/or regulatory initiatives at regional or national levels
 - Assessment of economic and social impacts of EDCs.

Finally, they should have the ability to converse in and write documents in English.

Selected experts are expected to participate in virtual and in-person meetings (up to two in-person meeting(s) are envisaged to be held in the third or fourth quarter of 2024 and/or first quarter of 2025).

4. Application

Interested applicants are invited to submit their curriculum vitae (no more than 10 pages in A4 format), list of publications relevant to the subject matter as appropriate, along with a cover letter and filled Declaration of Interest (DoI) using the attached form, no later than **midnight CET on 28 June 2024**. An applicant shall be made available by his or her employer for engaging in this work and be released for up to two international in-person meeting(s) and ad hoc virtual meetings.

5. Criteria and process for selection of experts

Procedures for the selection of experts are applied to ensure excellence, independence, and transparency. The criteria for the selection of experts are the basic and essential qualifications together with the proven competence and expertise as described above. UNEP and WHO will review the applications received on the basis of the criteria listed above. In selecting experts consideration will also be given, in addition to scientific and technical excellence, to diversity and complementarities of backgrounds to ensure that the expert working group as a whole adequately covers the expertise in the areas under consideration, broad geographic representation including developing and developed countries, gender balance and avoiding conflicts of interests. Note that public statements and positions will be taken into account in addition to financial and research interests. Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered.

6. Appointment of experts

Experts will be selected in their individual capacity on the basis of their expert knowledge to give advice on specific topics. The term "personal capacity" means that the expert is expressly expected to serve in his/her capacity as an independent expert rather than a representative of his or her employer. The views of the independent expert would not necessarily be reflective of any views and positions of his or her employer.

Experts will not receive any remuneration from UNEP or WHO for their participation in the working group. Limited funding may be available to support the travel of eligible experts when attending in-person working group meetings by invitation of UNEP and WHO, as per applicable rules and procedures.

Selected experts will be notified in writing. The names, affiliations, and basic biographic details of the members of the expert group will be posted online on the websites of UNEP and WHO.

Applications should be submitted no later than midnight CET on 28 June 2024 to:
science.chemicals@un.org.