

Rules of procedure of the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against Antimicrobial Resistance

1. Scope

Rule 1

The following rules of procedure shall apply to the operations of the Panel, including all sessions of the Expert Committee of the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against Antimicrobial Resistance (hereafter “the Panel”) convened in accordance with a decision of the Expert Committee and in compliance with the present rules of procedure.

2. Definitions

Rule 2

For the purposes of the rules of procedure:

(a) “Session” means any ordinary or extraordinary meeting of the Expert Committee of the Panel, held either physically or virtually;

(b) “Observers” means any Member and Non-Member Observer States of the United Nations, regional economic integration organizations, United Nations entities, Specialized Agencies, multilateral agreements, other intergovernmental organizations, and AMR governance structures, instruments and bodies, as well as other relevant stakeholders such as academic and research organizations, civil society organizations and networks, financial institutions, philanthropic organizations, and private sector entities, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and groups in vulnerable situations, qualified in matters covered by the Panel, and which has informed the Secretariat of the Panel of its wish to be represented and admitted by the Expert Committee, subject to the present rules of procedure and its Annex;

(c) “Founding document” means the text establishing the Panel by the Quadripartite organizations (FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOA) in Nairobi, Kenya, on 10 December 2025;

(d) “Subsidiary group” means a committee, subcommittee, *ad hoc* expert group, or other entity of the Panel established for fulfilling specific functions as defined by the Expert Committee.

(e) “Other relevant AMR governance structures, instruments and bodies” include, but are not limited to the Global Leaders Group on AMR (GLG) and the AMR Multistakeholder Partnership Platform (MSPP).

3. Expert Committee

Membership and terms

Rule 3

1. The Expert Committee is composed of thirty independent experts representing human, animal, and plant health, agrifood, and environmental sectors, and other relevant fields, serving in their individual capacities. Members provide policy and/or scientific expertise and strategic guidance to the Panel. The Expert Committee is led by two Co-Chairs and two Vice Co-Chairs, who are responsible for ensuring the effective execution of the Committee’s functions, and a Rapporteur.

2. In order to facilitate continuity of the Panel’s work, members of the Committee will have staggered terms, with the aim of ensuring that no more than half of the Committee members are elected at a session of the Committee. The initial appointments shall be structured as follows: half of the members shall be nominated for an initial term of two years, while the remaining half shall be nominated for an initial term of four years.

3. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 in this Rule, each member shall serve for a term of four years from the date of appointment with renewability, and for no more than two consecutive terms.

Rule 4

1. In addition to exercising the powers conferred on the Co-Chairs elsewhere in the rules or procedure and other relevant documents for ensuring the effective execution of the Committee's functions, the Co-Chairs shall:

- (a) Represent the Panel, as appropriate;
- (b) Declare the opening and closure of each session of the Expert Committee;
- (c) Preside at sessions of the Expert Committee;
- (d) Ensure the observance of the present rules of procedure;
- (e) Accord participants the right to speak during each session of the Expert Committee;
- (f) Apply the decision-making procedures as set out in the present rules of procedure;
- (g) Rule on any points of order during each session of the Expert Committee;
- (h) Subject to the present rules of procedure, exercise complete control over the proceedings and maintain order.

2. The Co-Chairs may also propose:

- (a) The closure of the list of speakers during debates;
- (b) A limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and the number of times a member or observer may speak on an issue;
- (c) The adjournment or closure of debate on an issue;
- (d) The suspension or adjournment of an ordinary or extraordinary session of the Expert Committee.

3. The Co-Chairs, in the exercise of their functions, shall remain at all times under the authority of the Expert Committee.

Rule 5

The Co-Chairs participate in sessions of the Expert Committee in that capacity and may not at the same time exercise the rights of a member.

Rule 6

1. The Co-Chair(s), if absent from a session of the Expert Committee, or any part thereof, should designate Vice Co-Chair(s) to act as the Acting Co-Chairs.

2. A Vice Co-Chair acting as Co-Chair has the same powers and duties as the Co-Chair and may not at the same time exercise the rights of a member.

Rule 7

If a Co-Chair resigns or is otherwise unable to complete the assigned term of office or to perform the functions of that office, a new Co-Chair is elected at the next session of the Expert Committee to serve the remainder of the term of office of the departing Co-Chair. Until a new Co-Chair is elected, one Vice Co-Chair serves as the Acting Chair.

Nomination of Candidates

Rule 8

1. Candidates for the Committee will be independent experts selected following an open, transparent, merit-based and competitive process. An open call for expression of interest will be launched by the Secretariat no later than six months before the next ordinary session of the Expert Committee at which elections are to take place.

2. The following criteria shall be taken into account in the nomination and election:

(a) Professional and political experience such as serving or former senior government officials, or serving or former senior manager from foundations, civil society organizations and the private sector;

(b) Scientific or technical expertise and knowledge regarding antimicrobial resistance; such expertise and knowledge can include knowledge from the natural and social sciences, Indigenous knowledge and local knowledge, as well as from the human, animal and plant health, food systems, and the environment sectors;

(c) Experience in communicating about and promoting science and incorporating it into policy development processes;

(d) Demonstrated ability to work in international scientific and policy processes.

3. The Secretariat shall invite, no less than three months before the election, written nominations and accompanying curricula vitae of nominees together with the Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure Form, in accordance with the Conflict-of-interest Policy. The Expert Committee may accept late nominations at its discretion. The Secretariat shall post the nominees' names and curricula vitae on the website of the Panel within a time frame that facilitates consideration of the nominees by members prior to the session of the Expert Committee at which elections are to take place.

4. The Secretariat will gather and screen the candidates against an agreed set of criteria announced in the call. In consultation with the Co-Chairs and Vice Co-Chairs of the Expert Committee, a shortlist of nominees for consideration by the Expert Committee will be advanced to the Committee for election at its next ordinary session.

Election of Expert Committee Members

Rule 9

1. The election of Expert Committee members, including the Co-Chairs and Vice Co-Chairs, shall strive for balanced representation across geography, sectors, gender, and disciplines, including representation of Indigenous Peoples, regions severely affected by AMR, and experts in economic, social sciences, and other relevant fields.

2. The members of the Expert Committee, including the Co-Chairs and Vice Co-Chairs, shall be elected by the Committee by consensus unless the Expert Committee decides otherwise.

3. If the Expert Committee decides to elect members of the Committee by vote:

- a. This is held at ordinary sessions of the Expert Committee;
- b. Each member of the Expert Committee has one vote in the elections;
- c. All elections are decided by a simple majority of the members present and voting, and all elections are held by secret ballot, unless otherwise decided by the Expert Committee;
- d. If, in a ballot, a decision is not reached between two or more candidates because they have obtained the same number of votes, another ballot shall be held and, if no decision is reached in this new ballot, the decision between those candidates shall be made by drawing lots;
- e. After completion of the elections, the number of votes for each candidate and the number of abstentions is recorded.

4. For the initial appointments, the Secretariat shall, in consultation with the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, select the members of the Expert Committee.

4. Venue/modalities, dates and notification of sessions

Rule 10

1. Ordinary sessions of the Expert Committee shall be held twice every year, with the venue/modality (either in person or by electronic means) and dates to be decided by the Expert Committee at the preceding session, unless otherwise decided by the Expert Committee.

2. One ordinary session shall be in person to facilitate decision-making by the Expert Committee, and one ordinary session shall be by electronic means to prepare for the next in-person decision-making session of the Expert Committee.
3. Extraordinary sessions of the Expert Committee are to be held pursuant to a decision taken by the Expert Committee at an ordinary session, or at the request of a majority of its members. In the event that the Secretariat of the Panel (hereafter “the Secretariat”) receives a request from a member for an extraordinary session, it shall immediately inform all members of the request, as well as of the approximate costs and relevant administrative considerations including the budgetary implications for the approved budget. If a majority of the members explicitly agree with the request within 21 days of the Secretariat’s communication, the Secretariat shall convene an extraordinary session not more than 90 days after the request has been approved, subject to availability of funding. The Secretariat shall notify members and observers of the dates and venue at least eight weeks before the extraordinary session is due to begin.

5. Admission and participation of observers

Rule 11

1. Unless otherwise decided by the Expert Committee, the sessions of the Expert Committee are open to participation by observers that are qualified in matters covered by the Panel, have informed the Secretariat of their wish to be represented, and have been admitted by the Expert Committee, subject to the present rules of procedure and its Annex.
2. Observers may include Member and Non-Member Observer States of the United Nations; regional economic integration organizations; United Nations entities; Specialized Agencies; multilateral agreements; other intergovernmental organizations; AMR governance structures, instruments, and bodies; as well as other relevant stakeholders such as academic and research institutions, civil society organizations and networks, financial institutions, philanthropic organizations, and private sector entities, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and groups in vulnerable situations.
3. Any Member and Non-ObsERVER States of the United Nations; regional economic integration organization; United Nations entity; and the secretariat of any multilateral agreement and other intergovernmental body will be considered as admitted by the Expert Committee as an observer and need not submit an application or other documentation.
4. Bodies, organizations and agencies that already have observer status with any of the Quadripartite organizations (FAO, UNEP, WHO, or WOA), or are accredited to a multilateral agreement administered by any of these organizations, are considered observers of the Expert Committee if they so request, in accordance with the policy and procedures for the admission of observers in the Annex of the present rules of procedure, except as the Expert Committee otherwise decides.
5. Observers in a session of the Expert Committee will be considered admitted by the Expert Committee as observers in subsequent sessions of the Expert Committee and need not submit subsequent applications or other documentation unless the Expert Committee decides otherwise.

Rule 12

Observers may, upon invitation of the Co-Chairs of the Expert Committee and if there is no objection from at least one-third of the members present, participate in the proceedings of sessions of the Expert Committee, including the right to speak in turn, the right to provide views, and the ability to support the implementation of the work programme of the Panel. These participatory rights do not grant the right to vote, or to co-sponsor draft decisions.

6. Agenda of the Session of the Expert Committee

Rule 13

1. The Secretariat shall, in consultation with the Co-Chairs and Vice Co-Chairs of the Expert Committee, prepare a provisional agenda for each session in accordance with the guidance of the Expert Committee. Any member may request the Secretariat to include specific items on the provisional agenda.

2. After consultation with the Co-Chairs and Vice Co-Chairs of the Expert Committee, the Secretariat shall distribute the provisional agenda to members and observers, along with other official documents to be considered at the session at least six weeks before the session is due to begin.
3. Between the date of distribution of the provisional agenda and the adoption of the agenda by the Expert Committee, members may propose supplementary items for inclusion on the agenda, provided they are of an important and urgent nature. The Secretariat shall, after consultation with the Co-Chairs and Vice Co-Chairs of the Expert Committee, include such items on a revised provisional agenda.

Rule 14

1. At the beginning of each session, members that are present shall adopt the agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda and any supplementary items proposed in accordance with Rule 13.
2. The Expert Committee may add, delete, defer, or amend items when adopting the agenda. Only items considered by the Expert Committee to be urgent and important may be added to the agenda. Any agenda item of an ordinary session, consideration of which has not been completed at the session shall be included automatically in the provisional agenda of the next session unless otherwise decided by the Expert Committee.

Rule 15

The provisional agenda for an extraordinary session of the Expert Committee will consist only of the items proposed for consideration in the request to convene the extraordinary session. It will be distributed to the members at the same time as the notification of the extraordinary session.

10. Subsidiary groups

Rule 16

1. The Expert Committee may establish any subsidiary groups to realize specific objectives, such as time-bound *ad hoc* expert working groups preparing defined deliverables in an agreed work programme, as may be agreed during a session of the Expert Committee.
2. The Expert Committee shall determine the matters to be considered by, and establish the terms of reference of, any subsidiary group, including its duration and modalities for conducting its work.
3. The Expert Committee shall determine the nomination and selection processes of experts in a separate document on the procedures for preparing and clearing the deliverables.
4. Unless otherwise decided by the Expert Committee, the present rules of procedure will apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of the subsidiary groups.
5. Each subsidiary group shall elect its own officers such as co-chairs and rapporteurs.
6. Procedures for the preparation and clearance of deliverables by *ad hoc* expert working groups are further defined in a separate procedural document, including the nomination and selection of experts by the Expert Committee.

11. Conduct of business

Rule 17

1. Sessions of the Expert Committee shall be public unless the Expert Committee decides otherwise.
2. Meetings of the subsidiary groups shall be held in private unless the group concerned or the Expert Committee decides otherwise.

Rule 18

1. The Co-Chairs may not declare a meeting of any Expert Committee session open or permit discussion to proceed unless at least one-third of the members of the Expert Committee participating in the session are present.

2. The presence of a simple majority of the members of the Expert Committee participating in the session is needed for any decision to be taken.

Rule 19

1. The Co-Chairs are responsible for maintaining the order of speaking during sessions of the Expert Committee. Subject to Rule 4, the Co-Chair will call on speakers in the order in which they signal their desire to speak. The Secretariat will maintain a list of speakers. The Co-Chairs may call a speaker to order if the speaker's remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
2. The Expert Committee may, on a proposal from the Co-Chairs or from any member, limit the time allowed to each speaker and the number of times each representative may speak on any question. With respect to a proposal from a member, before a decision is taken, two representatives may speak in favour of and two against a proposal to set such limits. When the debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the Co-Chairs will call the speaker to order without delay.
3. During the course of a debate, the Co-Chairs may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Expert Committee, declare the list closed. The Co-Chairs may, however, accord the right of reply to any member if a speech delivered after the Co-Chairs have declared the list closed makes this desirable.
4. During the discussion of any matter, a representative may at any time raise a point of order which shall be decided immediately by the Co-Chairs in accordance with the present rules of procedure. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the Co-Chairs. The appeal shall be put to the vote immediately and the ruling shall stand unless overruled by a simple majority of the members present and voting. A representative may not, in raising a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 20

The Co-chairs or rapporteur of a subsidiary group may be accorded precedence for the purpose of explaining the conclusions arrived at by that subsidiary group.

12. Decision-making

Rule 21

1. The members of the Expert Committee take decisions by consensus, unless otherwise provided for by the present rules of procedure.
2. The members of the Expert Committee are to make every effort to achieve consensus. If all efforts by the members of the Expert Committee to achieve consensus have been exhausted and no consensus has been reached, the decision will, as a last resort, be taken by a simple majority vote of the members of the Expert Committee present and voting, unless otherwise provided for by the rules of procedure.
3. When deliverables of the Panel are being considered, differing views are to be explained and, on request, recorded. Differing views on matters of a scientific, technical or socioeconomic nature are to be represented in the scientific, technical or socioeconomic document concerned, as appropriate in a given context. Differences of views on matters of policy or procedure are to be recorded in the report of the session of the Expert Committee, as appropriate in a given context.

Voting

Rule 22

Each member of the Expert Committee has one vote.

Rule 23

1. Except where the rules of procedure expressly provide otherwise, the decisions of the Expert Committee will be made by a simple majority of the members present and voting.
2. For the purposes of the rules, the phrase "members present and voting" means members present and casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members who abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

Rule 24

1. Subject to Rules 22 and 23, the Expert Committee will normally vote by a show of hands, but any representative may request a roll call, which will then be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the member whose name is drawn by lot by the Co-Chairs.
2. The vote of each member participating in a roll call will be recorded in the relevant documents of the Expert Committee.

Rule 25

After the Co-Chairs have announced the beginning of voting, no member is to interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. The Co-Chairs may permit members to explain their votes, either before or after the voting, except when the vote is taken by secret ballot. The Co-Chairs may limit the time allowed for such explanations.

13. Languages**Rule 26**

The official language of any session of the Expert Committee is English, unless otherwise decided by the Expert Committee.

Rule 27

Official working documents of the sessions will be provided in English, unless otherwise decided by the Expert Committee.

14. Modifications to the rules of procedure**Rule 28**

1. The present rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Expert Committee.
2. Unless otherwise decided by the Expert Committee, any proposed modifications to the rules of procedure submitted by members of the Expert Committee should be communicated to all members of the Expert Committee at least eight weeks before they are submitted to the session at which the modifications are expected to be discussed.
3. A rule of procedure may be suspended by the Expert Committee provided that 24 hours' notice of the proposal for the suspension has been given. The notice may be waived if no member objects.

Annex to the Rules of Procedure

Policy and procedures for the admission of observers

I. Policy for admission of observers

1. The following policy for admitting observers to sessions of the Expert Committee applies:
 - (a) In accordance with Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure, the decision as to whether an applicant for observer status is qualified in matters covered by the Panel should be guided by the documents submitted by the respective organization, as listed in paragraph 2 (a) of the present document, as well as by the functions of the Panel.
 - (b) Observers in a session of the Expert Committee of the Panel will be considered admitted by the Expert Committee as observers in its subsequent sessions and do not need to submit an application or other documentation except if the Expert Committee decides otherwise.
 - (c) Only observers who have been admitted by the Expert Committee and have registered for specific sessions may designate representatives to attend sessions of the Expert Committee. Observers must register their representatives in advance of each session. If there are limitations on the number of representatives permitted by an observer organization for a given session, the Secretariat shall communicate this in advance.
 - (d) The Secretariat will notify observers of sessions of the Expert Committee.
 - (e) Observers will be provided with name plates where such facilities are available or permitted at the meeting venue.

II. Procedures for admission of observers

2. The following admission process applies:
 - (a) Applicants for observer status to sessions of the Expert Committee will, as appropriate, be asked to provide the Secretariat with copies of, among other things:
 - (i) Documents describing the mandate, scope and governing structure of the organization, such as the charter/statutes/constitution/by-laws or articles of association;
 - (ii) Any other information that demonstrates the competence and interest of the organization in matters related to the Panel;
 - (iii) A completed form with the contact information and website address (if any) of the organization and of a designated focal point (to be updated when necessary);
 - (iv) Proof of accreditation to United Nations system entities or other intergovernmental processes as relevant.
 - (b) New requests for admission as an observer to sessions of the Expert Committee should be submitted to the Secretariat at least three months before a session of the Expert Committee. The Secretariat will retain the information submitted.
 - (c) The Secretariat will analyse the requests on the basis of the documents submitted, as listed in subparagraph (a) above, and of the functions of the Panel, and will make such analyses available for consideration by the Co-Chairs and Vice Co-Chairs of the Expert Committee.
 - (d) The list of applicants for observer status as reviewed by the Co-Chairs and Vice Co-Chairs of the Expert Committee, including any applications not approved, will be presented for consideration by the Expert Committee at its next session.
3. The Expert Committee will decide on the admission and participation of all observers in accordance with its rules of procedure. Observers accepted by the Co-Chairs and Vice Co-Chairs of the Expert Committee on the basis of the review described in paragraph 2 (d) may be admitted to a session of the Expert Committee and participate in it unless at least one-third of the members of the Expert Committee present at the session object.
4. Admission of new applicants as observers should be included as a regular agenda item of sessions of the Expert Committee, consistent with any applicable rules of procedure.

5. If observer status has to be withdrawn for any reason, the Co-Chairs may suspend the observer status of the observer in question, subject to approval by the Expert Committee.
6. Any observer may retain its status only as long as it satisfies the conditions set out for observer status in the present document and any relevant rule of procedure for sessions of the Expert Committee.