

Notes by the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR

1. This document is a draft intended solely for consultation with Member States. It does not represent a finalized version. Revisions and refinements will be made based on the feedback received during the consultation process.
2. This document, prepared by the Quadripartite organizations, coordinated by the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR, presents the draft 1 of the founding document for establishing the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against AMR (IPEA), as mandated by the [*Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance*](#) at the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly in September 2024.
3. This document is prepared based on the documents “[*Establishing an Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against Antimicrobial Resistance \(IPEA\)*](#)” and “[*Thought Starter on Key Elements for Establishing an Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against Antimicrobial Resistance \(IPEA\)*](#).” It draws upon language and terminology that have been previously agreed upon within established mechanisms, where relevant, taking due consideration of the outcomes of the [*technical session*](#) of the Global Leaders Group on AMR that took place on 7 July 2025, feedback from the multi-stakeholder survey open between 4 July and 1 August 2025, feedback from the virtual multi-stakeholder consultations on 8 and 9 September 2025 via the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform (MSPP), and written feedback received by 22 September 2025.
4. This founding document is intended to serve as a concise framework outlining IPEA’s key elements, including the scope and functions as well as the organizational and governance structure. All the proposed institutional components, namely the Expert Committee, subsidiary groups such as *ad hoc* expert groups, and the Secretariat, collectively constitute the IPEA. The Expert Committee provides strategic direction and oversight. Subsidiary groups such as *ad hoc* expert groups, supported by the Secretariat, implement the Panel’s work programme, including developing specific deliverables/outputs.
5. Detailed provisions regarding the functioning of these institutional components are elaborated in separate draft documents. These documents, which will set out the Panel’s rules, policies, processes, and procedures, are to be formally adopted by the Panel itself. They include:
 - a. Rules of procedure: covering procedures for the selection of members of the Expert Committee, admission of observers to the meetings, decision-making processes, etc.;
 - b. Conflict-of-interest policy: covering mechanisms for identifying, preventing and managing conflicts of interest;
 - c. Processes for determining the work programme: covering who is eligible to submit proposals, information required for submissions, and how these submissions are processed into a work programme with specific deliverables;
 - d. Procedures for the preparation and clearance of deliverables: covering the description of deliverable types, expert nomination and selection, the procedures for drafting, peer review and clearance, etc.
6. To facilitate and expedite the operationalization of the Panel, the Quadripartite organizations have also developed draft documents for the rules of procedure, the conflict-of-interest policy, and the processes for determining the work programme. These drafts are shared for consultation alongside the present draft founding document. The revised versions will be forwarded to the Panel for consideration and adoption at its first session.

Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against Antimicrobial Resistance (IPEA)

Founding Document, draft 1

I. Scope, objective and functions of the Panel

1. The objective of the Independent Panel is to assess and facilitate the generation and use of multisectoral, policy-relevant scientific evidence to support Member States at all levels in their efforts to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR) applying a One Health approach, making use of existing resources and avoiding duplication of ongoing efforts, with the following functions:
 - (a) **Assessment**—conducting independent, robust and authoritative assessments of current issues and identifying potential evidence-based options to address those issues, in particular where high impacts from AMR occur;
 - (b) **Horizon scanning**—undertaking “horizon scanning” to identify and prioritize overlooked and emerging trends, risks and impacts of relevance to policymakers and, where possible, proposing evidence-based options to address them;
 - (c) **Knowledge management and information sharing**—Facilitating the sharing and access to up-to-date and relevant information, identifying and highlighting key gaps in scientific research and evidence base, fostering communication between scientists and policymakers, explaining and disseminating findings for different audiences (e.g., governments, multilateral organizations, other relevant stakeholders), and raising public awareness;
 - (d) **Policy support**—Identifying, catalysing the development of, and promoting access to, policy-relevant tools and methodologies to support the translation of knowledge into policy formulation and implementation, such as those arising from assessments.

II. Institutional arrangements for the Panel

A. Expert Committee

2. The Expert Committee is the decision-making group of the Panel.

Membership

3. The Expert Committee is composed of thirty independent experts representing human, animal, and plant health, agrifood, and environmental sectors, and other relevant fields. Members provide scientific and/or policy 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. The Committee will review its composition and functions no later than two years following its establishment.
4. Members participate in their individual capacities, and not as representatives of their respective governments, institutions or organizations. They are nominated and selected through an open, transparent, merit-based, and competitive process, based on their expertise and knowledge of the Panel’s work. The selection process ensures inclusive participation and strives 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. Details on the terms of service, nomination procedures, and selection criteria and procedures are outlined in the Panel’s rules of procedure.
5. The Expert Committee also includes one representative of each of the Quadripartite organizations—Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Health Organization (WHO), and World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)—as *Ex Officio* members.

Participation of observers

6. Meetings of the Expert Committee may be open to observers from 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, subject to the rules of procedure.

Functions

7. The functions of the Expert Committee include, but are not limited to:
 - (a) Leading the development and approval of the Panel's work programme and its budget, based on requests, inputs and suggestions from governments, multilateral agreements, United Nations entities, other intergovernmental bodies and international instruments, and other stakeholders;
 - (b) Ensuring the active and efficient participation of observers in the meetings of the Expert Committee, and coordination with other relevant AMR governance structures, instruments and bodies, such as the Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (GLG) and the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform (MSPP), to leverage existing resources and avoiding duplication of ongoing efforts;
 - (c) Overseeing the implementation of the Panel's work programme, including the allocation of resources, and providing recommendations for the mobilization of resources;
 - (d) Establishing and closing subsidiary groups of the Panel, including *ad hoc* expert groups, as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedures;
 - (e) Selecting members of relevant subsidiary groups via an open and transparent process, in accordance with the rules of procedures as well as processes and procedures set out in other relevant documents;
 - (f) Engaging the scientific community and other knowledge holders in the implementation of the work programme, and ensuring equitable and effective participation of experts in the Panel's work such as through capacity building;
 - (g) Developing and managing a transparent peer-review process, with the support of the Secretariat, to ensure the highest levels of scientific quality, independence, inclusivity, integrity, and credibility for the Panel's deliverables;
 - (h) Clearing any deliverables produced by the Panel, including accepting technical reports and approving summaries for policymakers, in accordance with processes and procedures set out in relevant documents;
 - (i) Driving communication, outreach and the dissemination of any deliverables produced by the Panel at all levels, including ensuring the timely transmission, and facilitating the use, of relevant deliverables to international policy forums, such as the Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on AMR, the United Nations General Assembly, and the Governing Bodies of one or more United Nations entities and other international mechanisms, to enhance their impact on policy-making processes;
 - (j) Reviewing and approving the Panel's rules, policies, processes, procedures, and their amendments, including the rules of procedure and the terms of reference for a periodic, independent evaluation process of the Panel's efficiency and effectiveness;
 - (k) Reviewing the compliance with the Panel's rules, policies, processes and procedures;

- (l) Performing any additional functions deemed necessary by the Expert Committee.

B. Subsidiary groups

8. The Expert Committee may establish and close subsidiary groups under the Panel, such as *ad hoc* expert groups for preparing specific deliverables within the Panel's work programme, in accordance with the rules of procedure. The terms of reference of such subsidiary groups will be defined by the Expert Committee at the time of establishment. Unless otherwise decided, these subsidiary groups shall operate in accordance with processes and procedures set out in relevant documents.

C. Secretariat

9. The Panel will be supported by a Secretariat with the following functions:
 - (a) Providing technical and administrative support to the Expert Committee and any subsidiary groups to the Panel, as needed, to undertake their respective functions, including facilitating communication and coordination among members of the Expert Committee, groups under the Panel, relevant AMR governance structures, instruments and bodies, observer organizations, and other stakeholders;
 - (b) Drafting the work programme for approval by the Expert Committee, as well as coordinating and supporting its implementation in accordance with the Panel's rules, policies, processes, and procedures, in consultation with the Expert Committee;
 - (c) Monitoring and reporting progress to the Expert Committee on implementation of the approved work programme and budget, and assisting in the evaluation of the Panel's work;
 - (d) Mobilizing and managing the financial resources in accordance with the financial procedures, and managing contractual and legal matters related to the Panel;
 - (e) Disseminating the Panel's deliverables and conducting outreach activities, including producing relevant communication materials, in consultation with the Expert Committee;
 - (f) Organizing meetings and providing support for meetings, including the preparation of documents and reports to the Expert Committee;
 - (g) Enabling stakeholder participation, in accordance with processes and procedures set out in relevant documents, in a streamlined, efficient manner, in cooperation with the AMR Multi-stakeholder Partnership Platform;
 - (h) Proposing partnerships for consideration of the Expert Committee, and supporting the implementation of any partnerships as guided by the Expert Committee, including reviewing and reporting on the contribution of partnerships to the Panel's work;
 - (i) Carrying out any other functions assigned to it by the Expert Committee.
10. The Panel's Secretariat is jointly facilitated by the Quadripartite organizations (FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOA) and is hosted by UNEP. While the rules, policies and procedures of UNEP will apply to any administrative matters of the Secretariat, all four organizations will coordinate the implementation of the Secretariat's functions. The Expert Committee will decide on the location of the Secretariat at its first meeting.

III. Financial Arrangements

11. A dedicated financial mechanism will be made available, leveraging existing financial mechanisms and resources, to:
 - (a) Collect voluntary public and private contributions to support the work of the Panel, with a due diligence process to avoid conflict of interest;

- (b) Be governed by the relevant financial rules and procedures.
12. The contributions to the financial mechanism:
- (a) Will come without conditionalities;
 - (b) Will not orient the work of the Panel;
 - (c) Cannot be earmarked for specific activities, unless otherwise decided by the Expert Committee in accordance with the financial rules and procedures.
13. In-kind contributions will come without conditionalities from governments, the scientific community, other knowledge holders and stakeholders, and will be key to the success of the implementation of the work programme.

IV. Partnerships

14. To support the delivery of its functions and implementation of its work programme, the Panel may decide to pursue partnerships with relevant United Nations entities, Specialized Agencies, multilateral agreements, and other intergovernmental organizations and AMR governance structures, instruments and bodies, as well as other selected stakeholders, including academic and research organizations, civil society organizations and networks, financial institutions, philanthropic organizations, and private sector entities, in accordance with processes and procedures set out in relevant documents, including the conflict-of-interest policy.
15. The Secretariat may propose for consideration of the Expert Committee the establishment of possible partnerships, including their potential contribution to the work of the Panel.
16. The Secretariat will regularly inform the Expert Committee about the partnerships and their contribution. Partnerships are subject to periodic review.

V. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the Panel

17. The Panel's efficiency and effectiveness will be independently and externally reviewed and evaluated on a periodic basis, in an open and transparent manner, based on the Terms of Reference as decided by the Expert Committee.