

Call for Experts: Technical Advisory Group on Market Information for Access to Vaccines (TAG-MI4A)

15 December 2022 | Call for experts

The World Health Organization (WHO) is seeking experts to serve as members one of the Technical Advisory Group for MI4A. This “Call for experts” provides information about the advisory group in question, the expert profiles being sought, the process to express interest, and the process of selection.

Background

In 2018, World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Market Information for Access to Vaccines (MI4A) initiative, to contribute to the achievement of Strategic Development Goal 3.8 (Universal Health Coverage target) by enhancing access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable vaccines for all. MI4A is part of the WHO Global Public Health Goods.

MI4A contributes to broader efforts to increase access to medicines and vaccines, an important topic highlighted by the World Health Assembly in 2019 with the endorsement of a Roadmap for Access to medicines and vaccines¹ and the adoption of a new resolution on improving the transparency of markets for medicines, vaccines and other health products². MI4A also responds to specific requests from Member States and the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) to address vaccine market information gaps.

MI4A's objectives are to:

- Enhance the understanding of global vaccine demand, supply and pricing dynamics and identify affordability and shortage risks;
- Convene all relevant global health partners to contribute to the development of policies, strategies, and actions to address identified risks;
- Strengthen national and regional capacity for improved access to vaccines supply.

To carry out its objectives, every year MI4A collects information on vaccines purchased by countries (including products, volumes purchased and related price) and vaccines produced (including information on production available for commercialization and on pipeline products). This information as well as publicly available information on vaccine markets, partners resources and any programmatic or access considerations, is leveraged to develop market studies which aim to understand access dynamics and spotlight opportunities, risks and corrective action by WHO in collaboration with partners.

Functions of the Technical Advisory Group on Market Information for Access to Vaccines (TAG-MI4A)

In its capacity as an advisory body to WHO, the AG shall have the following functions:

- **Provide an independent recommendation on technical and/or strategic aspects of key global vaccine market topics**
- **Deliver recommendations on proposed areas for action by WHO to enhance global access to vaccines resulting from market analyses and as proposed by the WHO Secretariat;**
- **Advise WHO on data sources, data quality, methodologies and overall market assessments with a key focus on supply demand balance, pricing dynamics, supply sustainability, regional supply security and other relevant aspects related to global vaccine market access.**

Operations of the Technical Advisory Group on Market Information for Access to Vaccines (TAG-MI4A)

The TAG-MI4A shall normally meet at least once each year. However, WHO may convene additional meetings. TAG-MI4A meetings may be held in person (at WHO headquarters in Geneva or another location, as determined by WHO) or virtually, via video or teleconference.

TAG-MI4A meetings may be held in open and/or closed session, as decided by the Chairperson in consultation with WHO.

1. **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 Observers (as defined in paragraph III.3 below).
2. **Closed sessions:** The sessions dealing with the formulation of recommendations and/or advice to WHO shall be restricted to the members of the TAG-MI4A and essential WHO Secretariat staff.

Who can express interest?

The Technical Advisory Group on Market Information for Access to Vaccines (TAG-MI4A) will be multidisciplinary, with members who have a range of technical knowledge, skills and experience relevant to global vaccine market access. Approximately 10 members may be selected.

WHO welcomes expressions of interest from those with the following areas of expertise:

- global vaccine supply, demand, and market landscape dynamics across key regions and immunization areas
- vaccine manufacturing
- global immunization and/or infectious disease epidemiology;
- global vaccine market access and/or procurement

Submitting your expression of interest

To register your interest in being considered for the [name of the advisory group], please submit the following documents by **January 31st, 2023, 24:00h (midnight) Geneva time** to MI4A@who.int using the subject line "Expression of interest for the Technical Advisory Group – MI4A":

- A cover letter, indicating your motivation to apply and how you satisfy the selection criteria. Please note that, if selected, membership will be in a personal capacity. Therefore do not use the letterhead or other identification of your employer;
- Your curriculum vitae (including your nationality/ies) and
- A signed and completed Declaration of Interests (DOI) form for WHO Experts, available at <https://www.who.int/about/ethics/declarations-of-interest>.

After submission, your expression of interest will be reviewed by WHO. Due to an expected high volume of interest, only selected individuals will be informed.

Important information about the selection processes and conditions of appointment

Members of WHO advisory groups (AGs) must be free of any real, potential or apparent conflicts of interest. To this end, applicants are required to complete the WHO Declaration of Interests for WHO Experts, and the selection as a member of a AG is, amongst other things, dependent on WHO determining that there is no conflict of interest or that any identified conflicts could be appropriately managed (in addition to WHO's evaluation of an applicant's experience, expertise and motivation and other criteria).

All AG members will serve in their individual expert capacity and shall not represent any governments, any commercial industries or entities, any research, academic or civil society organizations, or any other bodies, entities, institutions or organizations. They are expected to fully comply with the Code of Conduct for WHO Experts (<https://www.who.int/about/ethics/declarations-of-interest>). AG members will be expected to sign and return a completed confidentiality undertaking prior to the beginning of the first meeting.

At any point during the selection process, telephone interviews may be scheduled between an applicant and the WHO Secretariat to enable WHO to ask questions relating to the applicant's experience and expertise and/or to assess whether the applicant meets the criteria for membership in the relevant AG.

The selection of members of the AGs will be made by WHO in its sole discretion, taking into account the following (non-exclusive) criteria: relevant technical expertise; experience in international and country policy work; communication skills; and ability to work constructively with people from different cultural backgrounds and orientations. The selection of AG members will also take account of the need for diverse perspectives from different regions, especially from low and middle-income countries, and for gender balance.

If selected by WHO, proposed members will be sent an invitation letter and a Memorandum of Agreement. Appointment as a member of a AG will be subject to the proposed member returning to WHO the countersigned copy of these two documents.

WHO reserves the right to accept or reject any expression of interest, to annul the open call process and reject all expressions of interest at any time without incurring any liability to the affected applicant or applicants and without any obligation to inform the affected applicant or applicants of the grounds for WHO's action. WHO may also decide, at any time, not to proceed with the establishment of the AG, disband an existing TAG or modify the work of the AG.

WHO shall not in any way be obliged to reveal, or discuss with any applicant, how an expression of interest was assessed, or to provide any other information relating to the evaluation/selection process or to state the reasons for not choosing a member.

WHO may publish the names and a short biography of the selected individuals on the WHO internet.

AG members will not be remunerated for their services in relation to the AG or otherwise. Travel and accommodation expenses of AG members to participate in AG meetings will be covered by WHO in accordance with its applicable policies, rules and procedures.

The appointment will be limited in time as indicated in the letter of appointment.

If you have any questions about this “Call for experts”, please write to MI4A@who.int well before the applicable deadline.

¹ https://www.who.int/medicines/access_use/road-map-medicines-vaccines/en/

² http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha72.html#resolutions

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