

SUBJECT: CONSENT AGENDA: INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Agenda item: 10c

Category: For Decision

Section A: Introduction

- This report informs the Board of the Governance Committee's recommendations for membership of the Independent Review Committee (IRC).
- The Governance Committee recommends that the Gavi Board appoint as new IRC members the individuals listed in Annex A for terms effective immediately through 31 March 2021.

Section B: Independent Review Committee Nominations

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Under the Gavi By-Laws, the IRC is an independent, impartial group of experts that serves to guarantee the integrity and consistency of funding decisions related to Gavi grants to countries.
- 1.2 The IRC consists of a group of diverse public health experts who review funding proposals and recommend their approval to the Gavi CEO, based on an assessment of whether countries' plans will likely achieve the proposed results and contribute to Gavi achieving its mission and strategy.
- 1.3 In response to the new typhoid window approved by the Board in November 2017 and to deepen the measles expertise in the pool, as well as to increase and augment the available skill set for reviewing health system and immunisation strengthening (HSIS) support, the Secretariat set out in January 2018 to identify additional members to be added to the pool of potential reviewers. The Secretariat retained the services of Russell Reynolds Associates, an executive search firm, to undertake this search.
- 1.4 Upon the recommendation of the Governance Committee, the Gavi Alliance Board at its June 2018 meeting approved the addition of 32 additional candidates (from an initial group of about 350 individuals originally identified by Russell Reynolds) to the pool of IRC members. Following the June 2018 Board meeting, the search continued for individuals in some specific additional areas such as: supplementary immunisation activities, health systems strengthening project management, finance and budgeting, and cold chain and logistics, in particular combined with French language skills.

1.5 The search for individuals in these particular additional areas has now concluded. A total of 25 additional individuals were considered, of which 13 are proposed for inclusion in the IRC pool. These individuals were identified through a variety of sources, including from Russell Reynolds, Secretariat and partner staff, as well as current IRC members. The Secretariat assessed the candidates against relevant criteria, conducted structured interviews, and checked references.

2. Candidates

2.1 *Proposed candidates:* The search has identified an additional 13 candidates which are proposed to be added to the pool of IRC members. These include:

- Four individuals with expertise in supplementary immunisation activities (with skills in the design and implementation of campaigns, and especially linkages to routine immunisation);
- Three with cold chain and logistics expertise (in the context of vaccination programmes, in Gavi-eligible countries);
- One with expertise in health systems strengthening project management (with ability to assess and provide recommendations for successful project management of implementation of health system strengthening support); and
- Five with expertise in finance and budgeting (specialists with clear financial/accounting credentials).

2.2 *Composition:* The new pool, including the 13 candidates in Annex A, is geographically diverse, with 34% of members coming from Africa, 24% from Europe, 22% from North America, and 11% from Asia. There is a total of 40% of members from Gavi-eligible countries, in line with the attempt to foster South-South dialogue. The Secretariat will pair appropriate experts for each country review in such a way as to ensure complementarity between the skill sets of reviewers assessing applications.

2.3 *Length of terms:* According to the IRC Terms of Reference, approved by the Board decision of November 2017, IRC members are to be appointed for a term of up to three years, which may be renewed for another period of up to three years. The current list of candidates are proposed to be appointed for just over two years, from 1 January 2019 through 31 March 2021.

2.4 *Date of commencement:* The new pool will be effective as of 1 January 2019.

3. Extension of terms for current IRC members

3.1 In addition to the proposed new candidates, the Secretariat also requests the extension of five IRC current members whose terms expire in March 2019. These members were appointed in November 2016, following either emergency appointments or nominations from stakeholders and partners.

Their fields of expertise include measles and cold chain and logistics, which remain a major on-going focus of Gavi support.

4. Exceptional extension of term for the current IRC Vice-Chair

- 4.1 The current IRC ViceChair is Sandra Mounier-Jack. She was appointed to the IRC pool for a two-year term in April 2014 (as she had already served on earlier IRCs), and then re-appointed for three years, through March 2019. However, she was named IRC ViceChair in 2018, and according to the IRC TORs, her term will run through December 2019. The Secretariat therefore requests an exceptional extension for her to remain in the IRC pool until the end of 2019 so that she may serve out her term as ViceChair.

Section C: Actions requested of the Board

The Gavi Alliance Governance Committee recommends to the Gavi Alliance Board that it:

- a) **Appoint** as new IRC members the individuals listed in Annex A to Doc 10c for terms effective 1 January 2019 until 31 March 2021;
- b) **Approve** the extension of the terms of the IRC members listed in Annex B to Doc 10c for a further three-year term until March 2022;
- c) **Approve** the exceptional extension of the term of Sandra Mounier-Jack as a member of the IRC pool until December 2019 so that she may serve out her term as IRC Vice-Chair.

Annexes

Annex A: Table of proposed IRC members

	Name	Current position	English	French	Nationality	Gender	Category
1	Hector Izurieta	Epidemiologist, FDA	Yes	Yes	Uruguayan, Ecuadorian, American	Male	Immunisation campaign management
2	Dafrossa Lyimo	Programme Manager, Immunisation and Vaccines Development (IVD), Ministry of Health and Social Welfare – Tanzania	Yes		Tanzanian	Female	Immunisation campaign management
3	Margie Watkins	Independent consultant	Yes		American	Female	Immunisation campaign management
4	Karen Wilkins	Independent consultant	Yes	Yes	American	Female	Immunisation campaign management
5	Celestino Costa	Independent consultant	Yes	Yes	Bissau-Guinean	Male	Cold Chain & Logistics
6	Henrique d'Alva	Independent consultant	Yes	Yes	Portuguese	Male	Cold Chain & Logistics
7	Tcha Landry Kaucley	National EPI Logistics Manager MoH Benin	Yes	Yes	Beninese	Male	Cold Chain & Logistics
8	Djordie Gikic	Independent consultant	Yes	Yes	Swiss	Male	HSS with project mgt/mgt consulting
9	Jean Rostand Kamga	Independent consultant	Yes	Yes	Ivorian	Male	Financial & Budget Analysis
10	Wassim Khrouf	Senior Partner of Auditing & Consulting worldwide	Yes	Yes	Tunisian	Male	Financial & Budget Analysis
11	Kondwani Msampha	Director Finance and Administration Africare	Yes		Malawian	Male	Financial & Budget Analysis
12	Cheikh Mohamed Hafis Seck	Finance Manager, National Alliance of Communities for Health	Yes	Yes	Senegalese	Male	Financial & Budget Analysis
13	Abdelmajid Tibouti	Independent consultant	Yes	Yes	Moroccan, Canadian	Male	Financial & Budget Analysis

Annex B: Table of current IRC members proposed for extension of terms

	Name	Term
1	Aleksandra Caric	Until 31 March 2022
2	Modibo Dicko	Until 31 March 2022
3	Ranjit Dhiman	Until 31 March 2022
4	Osman Mansoor	Until 31 March 2022
5	Benjamin Nkowane	Until 31 March 2022