Call for Experts for the Technical Advisory Group on Vector Control Products Regulation (TAG-VCPR)

Technical Advisory Group on Vector Control Products Regulation (TAG-VCPR)

Issued on: 27 June 2024

Deadline: 30 September 2024

The World Health Organization (WHO) is seeking experts to serve as members one of the Technical Advisory Group on Vector Control Products Regulation (TAG-VCPR). 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

The mandate of the Vector Control Products Assessment Team of the World Health Organization Prequalification Unit (WHO PQT-VCP) is to increase access to safe, high-quality and effective Vector Control Products (VCPs). Product dossiers, submitted by manufacturers, are assessed individually to determine if each product meets the established WHO standards for prequalification. The work of WHO PQT-VCP is furthered through cooperation with national regulatory agencies (NRA) and partner organizations to ensure that quality VCPs are available to those who need them.

Through evaluation, inspection and guidance activities, WHO PQT-VCP:

- Prequalifies VCPs that are safe, effective and manufactured to a high quality, and publishes a list of these prequalified products;
- Ensures the continued validity of the prequalification decision for products throughout their regulatory life cycle; and
- Contributes to building the assessment capacity of Member State National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs); by
    - training assessors from Member States through WHO assessment sessions;
    - harmonizing quality and regulatory systems;
    - supporting collaborative registrations of prequalified VCPs.

In the absence of legislation, the framework for the prequalification assessment for VCPs is based on science and policy. Implementation of the established programme requires that existing scientific guidance, data requirements and operational policies are periodically reviewed, updated and expanded to encompass innovative tools and technologies that new aspects are developed. The landscape for vector control (VC) is rapidly evolving, leading to novel products/delivery mechanisms across the categories of conventional public health pesticides, microbial organisms/agents, and modified organisms including gene-drive based technologies.

Considering these factors, the establishment of a technical advisory group is necessary to ensure impartiality and transparency of prequalification processes for development of guidance and policies related to the prequalification of VCPs. WHO will call upon the Technical Advisory Group on WHO Vector Control Products Regulation (TAG-VCPR) to provide advice to WHO on these activities, thereby providing an additional level of assurance that due process was followed and that WHO guidance and policies are supported by evidence-based procedures and reflect good regulatory practices.

The Technical Advisory Group on WHO Vector Control Products Regulation (TAG-VCPR) (the "TAG-VCPR") will act as an advisory body to WHO in this field.

TAG-VCPR is managed by the Vector Control Products assessment team at the World Health Organization Prequalification unit (WHO PQT-VCP) at the Regulation and Prequalification Department.

Functions of the Technical Advisory Group on Vector Control Products Regulation

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

- To provide regulatory advice on the procedures related to the assessment of VCPs and vector control active ingredient (VCAIs) used in the formulation of end use VCPs;
- To provide advice on the development, revision and adoption of policies, guidelines and guidance in response to advancements of technologies in VC and the progression of the PQT-VCP activities, e.g.
    - Regulatory frameworks for existing and novel products
    - Guidelines and guidance, including data requirements, for pre-market assessment
    - Guidelines and guidance for post-market monitoring and surveillance;
- To provide advice on the workplan and prioritization of activities/initiatives within the scope of prequalification of VCPs, outside of the product assessments activities.

Operations of the Technical Advisory Group on Vector Control Products Regulation]

The TAG-VCPR shall normally meet at the request of WHO to provide regulatory advice on the PQT-VCP procedures, advise WHO PQT-VCP on the adoption of policies, and advise on the prioritization and inclusion of activities/initiatives on the WHO PQT-VCP programme of work.

TAG-VCPR meetings will be convened by WHO and will be held virtually, via video or teleconference, or in-person (at WHO headquarters in Geneva or another location, as determined by WHO). Meetings will usually run for one to three days (depending on the number of items in the agenda).

Active participation is expected from all TAG-VCPR members, including in working groups, teleconferences, and interaction over email. TAG-VCPR members may, in advance of TAG- VCPR meetings, be requested to review meeting documentation and to provide their views for consideration by the TAG-VCPR.

Who can express interest?

The TAG-VCPR will be multidisciplinary, with members who have a range of technical knowledge, skills and experience relevant to vector control products policy and regulation..

WHO welcomes expressions of interest from senior level experts (e.g. programme managers, regulators) involved in vector control products policy and regulation, with expertise in the following areas:

- Vector control products policy development (evaluation and monitoring of the quality, safety and efficacy of VCPs)
- Vector control products regulation/procedures
- Vector control products national programmes of work
- Product development, policy and regulation (regulatory systems for VCPs)
- Health product/technologies for which experience may be applicable to VCPs

Individuals from national regulatory authorities from member states of AFRO, EMRO, SEARO, WPRO, PAHO, and EURO, women, and those with expertise in vector control products regulation are particularly encouraged to submit an application.

Individuals with experience relevant to the policy and regulation of pesticides, more generally, and/or health products/technologies which may be related to vector control are also encouraged to express their interest by means of submitting an application.

TAG-VCPR members are nominated following an open call. Selection of members following the call is outlined in the TAG-VCPR TOR. Submitting your expression of interest

There are two components to the submission. To register your interest in being considered for the Technical Advisory Group on Vector Control Products Regulation, please:

1) Complete and submit **this form** online
2) submit your CV to TAG_VCPR@who.int.

Both the form and your CV should be received **before 30 September 2024, 23:59pm CEST (UTC+2)**. Incomplete applications (those that do not comprise the two components) will not be considered.

Within the form, you will be asked for:

- Personal details (e.g. your name, contact details nationality and gender)
- Your professional experience (e.g. areas of expertise with which you have experience)
- Your motivation to apply for the advisory group. There is a limit of 4,000 characters for this response; it is recommended that you prepare your motivation in advance, as the form cannot be saved once begun.

Your CV should be sent at the same time as you submit the form, with the email subject heading: "TAG-VCPR – *application to open call – [your surname]*".

After submission, your expression of interest will be reviewed by WHO. Due to an expected high volume of interest, only selected individuals will be contacted, and will then be requested to submit a Declaration of Interest form.

Data collected in this form will be used for the purpose of reviewing and shortlisting potential candidates for advisors to the Technical Advisory Group on Vector Control Products Regulation. Data will not be shared with those external to WHO.

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 TAG_VCPR@who.int well before the applicable deadline, indicating in the subject line "TAG-VCPR call for experts – enquiry".