

Call for Experts for the WHO Advisory Group on Pesticide Specifications

WHO Advisory Group on Pesticide Specifications

Issued on: 5 June 2026

Deadline: 1 October 2026

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

Background

WHO publishes specifications for public health pesticides. The establishment and advancement of specifications supports efforts to ensure that pesticide products meet established standards and encourages enhancements in product quality.

The AG will act as an advisory body to WHO supporting the evaluation of scientific dossiers to inform the development of WHO specifications for public health pesticides.

The AG is managed by the Special Prequalification Programmes for Vector Control Products at the World Health Organization Prequalification unit at the Regulation and Prequalification Department (WHO PQT/SPP/UHO/VCP).

Functions of the WHO Advisory Group on Pesticide Specifications

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

- a) To provide independent evaluation of all information supporting the proposed specifications, including chemistry, manufacturing data, physical-chemical properties, or other scientific disciplines as required, with the purpose of establishing product specifications;
- b) To present assessments and contribute, as needed, to relevant scientific peer review of assessments;
- c) To advise WHO on the adoption of scientifically sound product specifications and on identification of policy issues that need to be addressed to support the continued evolution of the activities, such as the adoption, extension, amendment or withdrawal of pesticide specifications, or the development and publication of updated and/or new guidance which may be developed jointly by WHO and other Organizations of the United Nations.

Operations in relation to assessments of submitted dossiers

1. AG members are expected to keep the Secretariat informed on the progress of dossier assessment throughout the review cycle. The members are expected to inform WHO of any expected or unforeseen delays in dossier reviews as compared to agreed-upon timelines.
2. AG members may be requested to have individual or small group meetings with the WHO Secretariat.
3. AG members are expected to use WHO supported platforms for the exchange of confidential information.
4. AG members shall not speak on behalf of, or represent, the WHO to any third party, unless exceptionally and explicitly authorized beforehand in writing by WHO on a case-by-case basis and WHO's interests so require.

Who can express interest?

The AG will be multidisciplinary, with members who have a range of technical knowledge, skills and experience relevant to chemistry, microbiology and toxicology of pesticide active ingredients.

WHO welcomes expressions of interest from senior level experts (e.g. chemists, microbiologists, toxicologists working with or at national regulatory authorities/laboratories) involved in assessing the quality of pesticide active ingredients and/or its regulation, with expertise in the following areas:

- Chemical and microbial pesticide active ingredients (evaluation and monitoring of its quality and toxicology/safety)
- Quality control of pesticide active ingredient products (e.g. national laboratories, international/national organizations/programmes of work)
- Evaluation and validation of analytical test methods for pesticides (e.g. national laboratories, international/national organizations/programmes of work)
- Assessment of quality standards for pesticide active ingredient products used in public health

Individuals from national regulatory authorities of WHO Member States, women, and those with expertise in chemical and microbial pesticide active ingredients regulation are particularly encouraged to submit an application.

Individuals with experience relevant to the assessment of quality standards for pesticide active ingredient products used across agriculture and public health, 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.

AG members will be selected by the WHO Secretariat taking into account relevant technical expertise, as set out above, and, to the extent possible, gender balance and equitable geographical representation across the WHO Regions.

Submitting your expression of interest

There are two components to the submission. To register your interest in being considered for the WHO Advisory Group on Pesticide Specifications, please:

- 1) Complete and submit [this form](#) online
- 2) Submit your CV to pqvectorcontrol@who.int.

Both the form and your CV should be received **before 1 October 2026, 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: *“WHO Advisory Group on Pesticide Specifications – 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 WHO Advisory Group on Pesticide Specifications. 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.

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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 "WHO Advisory Group on Pesticide Specifications – enquiry".