

2nd Stakeholders' Group Meeting - 23 June 2023 Readout

Attendance:

Dr Elmar Nimmesgern, interim Executive Director, opened the meeting, welcomed participants and welcomed Dr John Gyapong, chair of the Scientific Committee, invited to attend the meeting as observer for coordination between the two groups.

The agenda was approved. Clarification was given regarding the closed, current and upcoming calls for expression of interest, which are all available on the [EDCTP3 website](#) under the Funding section.

An update of the 2nd call of expression of interest was provided, with 53 applications received as of 11 June, following a public advertising of the call, a targeted list of invited stakeholders and a possibility for direct nominations in case of incomplete representativeness. The final list will be established by the evaluation committee on the 4th July and an informal introduction meeting will be set-up around mid-August, with voluntary participation. The chair of the SG has been invited to be an observer during the selection process. The maximum number of members is not set in the regulation but a manageable group size will have to be kept in mind whilst respective topics, gender and geographical balance. Next meeting with the final list of stakeholders is planned on November 7th at the side of the EDCTP Forum.

The draft of the rules of procedures were presented by Lauren Schell, Legal Officer. Comments included the need for longer notice for meeting dates, for guidelines on internal consultations for each stakeholder, application of Chatham House rules with possibility to attribute quotes upon request, the possibility to have alternates, in-person meetings linked to major events, expand the election of the chair/vice chair to include oral presentation and possibility for direct votes during meetings, develop the role of the chair/vice chair to include representation of and reporting to Members, request for clarification of misconducts definition, request for the SG to submit requests/opinions to the board and requests to ensure a group discussion/decision in the case where a Member would be excluded.

The secretariat confirmed the ongoing amendment of the Rules of Procedure, explained the challenge for alternates who would not have been evaluate, requesting further consideration, the agreement to set-up informal Standard Operating Procedures, including 3 ½ day meetings per year, the transmission of a yearly activity report to the Board at the end of each year, the establishment of an agenda and dates for the following year in December of each year.

The SG deliverables were presented as per the Regulation: 1) Inputs to the EDCTP Forum 2) Inputs to the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, 3) Mapping of synergies with relevant adjacent sectors. Inputs to the Forum have been provided through elected Members for this task (Marieke and Hans), notably by contributing to abstract reviews, attendance to the Scientific Committee of the Forum and inputs to the Forum agenda. Surveys will be sent in October to explore ways of updating the SRIA and map the relevant adjacent sectors. Agreement was reached to ensure a joint development of the surveys.

John Gyapong, Chair of the Scientific Committee (SC), provided an overview of members and tasks of the SC (provision of independent scientific advice, focusing on science, bring consensus on topics, revise the SRIA, with a minimum of 2 meeting/year), stressed the need for coordination between the two bodies and reiterated the mutual invites of chairs to respective groups, called for clarification on what the SC and SG look from each-other, for a streamlining of the two bodies' recommendations to the Governing Board by the secretariat and the need to find synergies and avoid overlaps between the two bodies. A joint meeting on November 7th will be organized.

Deliverables

Deliverables were discussed: **Deliverable 1: The EDCTP Forum** contribution were presented by Julia Molto Lopez, communication officer and Hans Eckhardt (GLOPID-R/Foundation Merieux). The forum will spread over three full days and an open ceremony from 7-10 Nov 2023 in Paris. Registration fees are waived for SG Members. 774 abstracts were received and reviewed; attention was given to gender and geographical balance with shortcomings identified regarding geographical representation in the proposals received. A plenary session will be attended by the Executive Director giving the opening speech. A high level discussion is expected in terms of content and representation with involvement of the audience. Members were invited to propose panelists to be invited. **Deliverable 2: An update of the SRIA** is expected from the SG with inputs to be provided on the scientific strategic and technological priorities taking into account the needs and progress in global health and adjacent sectors. A survey will be circulated. Points raised included the need for a middle guidance between the high level SRIA and the Work Programmes, as well as a need for guidance on prioritization of topics or diseases. The need to identify where EDCTP3 could bring an added value in bridging identified gaps in terms of specific diseases or in the overall global health landscape was raised. **Deliverable 3: Synergies with other sectors:** a mapping exercise was proposed as a way forward for each sectoral representative to conduct their own mapping, once new members have joined the group. A definition of sectors will be needed but agreement of a broad interpretation was reached.

Next steps: 1) Finalisation of the evaluation of applications to extend the group to be validated by the governing board, 2) Introduction meeting of new members 3) 3rd SG meeting on 7 November at the side of the forum 4) Discussions to be pursued on joint SC-SG meeting 5) Final comments on minutes of 1st SG meeting to be shared if any 6) Circulate updated RoPs, and meeting readout and slides.