

MeTA International Advisory Group (IAG): Roles and Responsibilities



Background to the Medicines Transparency Alliance (MeTA)

MeTA is an alliance of partners working to improve access to medicines by increasing transparency and accountability in the healthcare market place. The UK Department for International Development (DFID) is providing initial funding. Other partners include governments, global and national civil society organisations, pharmaceutical and other business interests, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank. Responsibility for the governance of MeTA rests with the MeTA Management Board – currently composed of representatives from DFID, the World Bank and WHO. An International MeTA Secretariat is mandated to carry out a workplan agreed by the Board, to work with and support national efforts in seven pilot countries and to support the work of the MeTA International Advisory Group (IAG).

The Role of the MeTA IAG

The IAG is an advisory body to the MeTA Management Board that supports the overall work of the MeTA programme, with a particular commitment to its transparency and accountability goals. Specifically its roles are to:

- Review findings emerging from MeTA pilot countries and consider their implications to help MeTA to achieve its goals.
- Provide comments on trends within the global pharmaceutical market relevant to MeTA's aims of achieving greater transparency and accountability.
- Make recommendations to the Access to Medicines Research Network on research streams which could improve understanding of how access to medicines can be enhanced.
- Make suggestions on the content of MeTA global meetings.
- Analyse the developments and lessons emerging from MeTA and provide recommendations on the future direction of MeTA in Phase Two.

Responsibilities of IAG Members

Members of the IAG will be expected to:

- Be available to attend two meetings of the IAG per year, one in London and one in a MeTA pilot country.
- Provide comments on trends within the global pharmaceutical market relevant to MeTA's aims of achieving greater transparency and accountability.
- Identify possible agenda areas for wider discussion among the programme's various stakeholders.
- Play an ambassadorial role in support of MeTA's objectives inside and outside their own organisations.
- Contribute to the development of analytical papers and any summary reports of the programme.

MeTA International Advisory Group (IAG): Roles and Responsibilities (continued)



IAG Membership

The IAG will play a key role in MeTA, providing a critical intellectual steer and advisory function to the initiative. The IAG will benefit from the unique mix of perspectives represented on the group and from the unusual experience of bringing together civil society, financial analysts, senior pharmaceutical management and experts from other sectors in problem-solving mode. Members are invited to participate as representatives of their host institution. Specifically:

1. The IAG will be composed of around 20 members made up of representatives from civil society, the pharmaceutical industry, MeTA pilot countries and international development agencies.
2. Members are senior, influential and forward looking – in particular they should be able and willing to seek solutions to market imbalances and imperfections.
3. Members will collectively represent a wide ranging geographical knowledge of the global pharmaceutical market and the countries in which the programme is working.
4. Industry representatives will span a range of functional specialisms including manufacture, research, marketing, pharmacy and investment.
5. Civil society representatives will span a range of functions including specialist knowledge of transparency and accountability, the ground knowledge of barriers to access pharmaceuticals, and innovative approaches to healthcare solutions – both manufacture and distribution.
6. Pilot countries will each be represented by one member, nominated by their National MeTA Stakeholder Group (and likely to be the chair of that group).
7. Expenses for the costs of attending IAG meetings will be paid.

For more information, please contact the MeTA Secretariat:

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