



CALL FOR EXPERTS ON FOODBORNE ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Deadline: 31 December 2017

Background

In recognition of the growing problem of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and its increasing threat to human health and the consensus that addressing this problem requires a One Health Approach the 39th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) agreed it was important for the food safety community to play its part and re-established the ad hoc codex task force on AMR. One of the objectives of the task force is to revise the current Codex Code of Practice to Minimise and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance ([CAC/RCP 61-2005](#))¹. In order to ensure that this revision is based on the most recent evidence and scientific analysis regarding foodborne AMR, that the scope appropriately reflects the role of the food sector in minimizing the risk to public health from the development and spread of foodborne antimicrobial resistance and that a range of risk management options are available for consideration by Codex, Codex issued a request for scientific advice to FAO and WHO in collaboration with OIE². In order to address that request FAO and WHO, in collaboration with OIE are planning a series of expert consultations to firstly address the risk assessment aspects and then request the risk management component of the request for scientific advice.

The objective of this call is to develop an expert roster of qualified scientists willing to serve as experts in the forthcoming expert consultations on AMR.

According to the procedures described in the FAO/WHO framework for the provision of scientific advice on food safety and nutrition³, the FAO/WHO Secretariat establishes a list of experts. Experts are selected from the list referred to as the *roster* of experts, for each meeting of to serve as members of the expert meeting or to assist the Secretariat with preparatory work.

Basic and essential qualifications of experts

FAO and WHO place great value to the technical qualification and independence of the participating experts as well as to the transparency of its selection process. Therefore, the organizations have developed procedures for selecting experts assuring that transparency, excellence and independence of opinions is provided.

Assessing the available scientific data and providing scientific advice on foodborne AMR and the related risks is a multidisciplinary exercise. Experts are expected to have a high level of expertise and experience within their scientific area relevant to foodborne antimicrobial resistance, assessment of the risk and potential management options as demonstrated in the peer-reviewed literature or contribution to relevant national or international meetings and/or reports. The mutual respect and

¹ Available at: http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FStandards%252FCAC%2BRCP%2B61-2005%252FCXP_061e.pdf

² See Appendix 3 in the report of the codex physical working group on AMR. Available at: http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?lnk=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FMeetings%252FCX-701-40%252FD%252Fcac40_12_Add2e.pdf

³ Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-a1296e.pdf>

understanding between scientists from various disciplines is a key element of success in reaching a consensus based on the best available science. An understanding of the overall food safety risk analysis process would be of advantage.

Qualified experts will be selected from the roster for each meeting depending on the expertise required, and are then requested to review the literature and prepare background papers in advance of the meeting. Meetings are conducted in English and participation in the meeting is required for the whole duration, usually five days. Cost of participation is covered by FAO/WHO, however, honoraria are not provided.

Successful candidates should meet most or all of the following qualifications:

- a. Advanced university degree(s) in microbiology, food technology, food science, food hygiene, epidemiology, public health, medicine, Infectious Diseases, clinical microbiology, antimicrobial stewardship in clinical settings and/ or infection control and prevention., veterinary medicine, bioinformatics, or related fields;
- b. Scientific publications in peer reviewed journals or proven experience in delivering scientific opinions on antimicrobial resistance, food safety, and/or risk assessments at national, regional or international level;
- c. Experience in food safety/risk analysis related to antimicrobial resistance in foods and/or antimicrobial use and AMR in a particular food chain (e.g. aquaculture, horticulture etc.) and/or alternatives to antimicrobials and/or assessment of management options for minimizing the development and transmission of foodborne AMR
- d. Ability to converse in and write documents in English
- e. Ability to prepare documents and spreadsheets in electronic format; and
- f. Leadership or invited participation in national or international scientific bodies, committees, etc. that are pertinent to the above disciplines and described tasks.

Criteria and process for selection of experts

The criteria for the selection of experts are the basic and essential qualifications together with the proven competence and expertise in the various areas as described above. The curriculum vitae of the applicants will be reviewed on the basis of the criteria listed above by a selection panel of three or more individuals including at least one independent, internationally recognized expert appointed by FAO/WHO. The purpose of the panel review is to determine whether the applicants meet all the essential requirements. The highly qualified individuals selected from the applicants will be used by FAO/WHO to invite experts to meetings and/or expert consultations. In selecting experts consideration will also be given, in addition to scientific and technical excellence, diversity and complementarities of scientific backgrounds, representation from all geographic regions including developing and developed countries as well as gender.

Appointment of experts

Experts will be “selected in their individual capacity on the basis of their expert knowledge to give advice on specific topics. The term “personal capacity” means that the expert is expressly expected to serve in his/her capacity as an independent expert rather than a representative of his or her employer. The views of the independent expert would not necessarily be reflective of any views and

positions of his or her employer. All experts will be required to complete a Declarations of Interest statement before participation in any expert meetings can be confirmed

Deadline

Applications, indicating the main area of expertise for the application and a copy of their curriculum vitae, should be sent electronically or post-marked to the address below by 31 December 2017.

Application

Interested applicants should submit their *curriculum vitae* including a description of their education, work experience, two personal references that have knowledge of their professional qualifications and a list of peer reviewed publications relevant to the factors above (please do not include reprints in your submission unless specifically requested at a later date).

Correspondence

For more information and submission of applications, please contact Dr Sarah Cahill (FAO) or Dr Awa Aidara Kane (WHO).

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