



TERMS OF REFERENCE
OF
UNITED AGAINST RABIES FORUM
STEERING GROUP

Preamble:

The United Against Rabies (UAR) Forum was established in 2020 to create a more inclusive network of state and non-state actors alongside the Tripartite, who share a common vision for rabies elimination and wish to work together to achieve it. The UAR Forum is hosted by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) on behalf of the Tripartite.

The overarching objective of the UAR Forum is to implement the approaches set out in *Zero by 30* and help to achieve its goals.

Working Groups of UAR Forum members were formed to carry out the work of the Forum, reporting back to the wider membership via the Steering Group.

In order to transition to a more efficient and sustainable mode of operation in 2023, the Steering Group committed to developing a process and transition plan to ensure that the Steering Group included a focal point for each of the priority objectives set by the United Against Rabies Forum and take on the role of an advisory board to specific activities that contributed to these objectives.

In November 2023, three years after the establishment of the UAR Forum, the Steering Group noted the importance of reviewing and transitioning the Steering Group participation to meet the evolving needs of the UAR Forum, and priority objectives set for 2024, which are outlined below:

- i. Engage rabies-endemic countries and support development and implementation of National Strategic Plans
- ii. Engage local authorities and communities to prioritise rabies elimination at the local level
- iii. Facilitate access to human post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), including supporting the implementation of Gavi's strategy on rabies.
- iv. Promote improved surveillance, data sharing and data reporting
- v. Support advocacy and resource mobilisation for rabies control

These Steering Group Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually by the Steering Group, following the United Against Rabies Forum Stakeholder Meeting.

Steering Group Responsibilities

The Steering Group provides oversight and supports the UAR Forum to create an enabling environment so that members and countries can focus on activities that efficiently contribute to *Zero by 30*, while benefitting from the sharing of knowledge, experience, ideas, and information.



The Steering Group will be comprised of representatives of the three Tripartite organisations and the chairs of each Working Group.¹

The Steering Group will be co-chaired by representatives from two of the Tripartite organisations, or by one Tripartite representative and by an independent person to represent civil society partnership in rabies elimination and jointly designated by the Tripartite organisations for an initial two-year term.

Responsibilities of the Steering Group include:

- i. Provide oversight for the operative work of the Forum.
- ii. Review Forum membership applications, prior to approval by Tripartite organisations.
- iii. Organise the UAR Forum Annual Meeting and its agenda.
- iv. Establish Working Groups, develop and approve their TORs.
- v. Endorse the UAR Forum work plan.

Responsibilities of the independent co-chair include to:

- i. Promote the work, vision, purpose and objectives of the UAR Forum
- ii. Advocate for rabies elimination and represent the UAR Forum in national and international fora
- iii. Co-chair the Steering Group meetings, which may be virtual or in person
- iv. participate in the annual UAR Forum Members' Annual Meeting
- v. conduct the business of the UAR Forum in line with the UAR Forum Terms of Reference

Steering Group composition

Following recommendations from the UAR Forum in November 2023, the Steering Group will be comprised of the following participants, designated for an initial two-year term.

- **Independent co-chair (TBC)**
- **Tripartite representatives:**
 - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations: Dr Junxia Song
 - World Health Organization: Dr Bernadette Abela
 - World Organisation for Animal Health: Dr Gregorio Torres
- **Global Rabies Coordinator (Secretariat):** Dr Rachel Tidman
- **Focal points for priority objectives/working groups (TBC)**

Focal points for these priority objectives should represent an organisation that is listed as a United Against Rabies Forum member, and meet the requirements listed below each objective.

- i. Engage priority rabies-endemic countries and support development and implementation of National Strategic Plans

Requirements: Experience in drafting and implementing national strategic plan for rabies control; experience in working in rabies-endemic countries to coordinate partners with the implementation of rabies control activities; broad understanding of the policy aspects of the national strategic plans.

- ii. Engage local authorities and communities to prioritise rabies elimination at the local level.

¹ Since 2022 the chairs of the working groups were acting as focal points for each of the priority objectives decided by the UAR Forum



Requirements: Experience in engaging local authorities and communities in disease control efforts (of rabies, or other zoonotic diseases).

- iii. Facilitate access to human PEP, including supporting the implementation of Gavi's strategy on rabies.

Requirements: Experience in PEP forecasting and community accessibility.

- iv. Promote improved surveillance, data sharing and data reporting.

Requirements: A designated expert of either a WHO Collaborating Centre for rabies, WOAHP Reference Laboratory for rabies, or FAO Reference Centre for rabies.

- v. Support advocacy and resource mobilisation for rabies control.

Requirements: Experience in establishing public and private partnerships, innovation and knowledge transfer, advocacy and resource mobilisation.

The Steering Group commit to meeting virtually (or in-person) at least quarterly, with *ad hoc* meetings as required to address the needs of the UAR Forum. Steering Group focal points for priority objectives commit to liaising with the leads of priority activities in 2024 and 2025 to assess progress and identify challenges and blocking points.

Amendments

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually by the Steering Group after the annual United Against Rabies Forum Stakeholder Meeting.

ENDS