

Dear Members of the Alliance,
Dear Colleagues,

The multi-partner Joint External Evaluation (JEE) was established in May 2016 as a platform for facilitating multisectoral collaboration on health security capacity building, including but not limited to the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005).

Finland acted as the Chair of the Alliance until mid-2017, when Australia accepted the Co-Chairmanship of the network. The initial term of the Advisory Group was two years. Since its establishment in 2016, both the global health security landscape and the role of the Alliance has evolved and we have moved forward in many ways. We wish to thank you all for your engagement in the work so far.

The Co-Chairs would like to send an open call to the Alliance members and partners to express their interest to join the Advisory Group for the next biannual term (2019 – 2020).

According to the Terms of Reference of the Advisory Group, adopted in May 2016, 12 members will be nominated by national governments, in addition to which there are four permanent advisers from multilateral agencies (WHO, FAO, OIE and the World Bank). Moreover, up to four members will be selected from foundations or other non-governmental organizations.

To be considered for membership of the Advisory Group, countries should have volunteered for or undergone an external assessment, and should be committed to the objectives of the Alliance.

In the case of non-governmental partners, each partner must satisfy at least one of the following two criteria:

1. Provide financial resources and/or expertise to support the joint external evaluations of country IHR capacities on an ongoing basis through the Alliance; and
2. Commit to work with partners and countries as national action plans are developed and updated based on the results of the joint evaluations, and to help fill gaps with resources as appropriate.

Finland would like also to express its interest to continue to serve as a Co-Chair of the Alliance together with Australia in 2019, should the membership see value in this.

The Co-Chairs would also like to take this opportunity to seek confirmation from countries and other partners on their willingness to become part of the Alliance.

We greatly appreciate the expressions of interest and possible other comments by **31 October 2018**.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kaisa Lähdepuro (kaisa.lahdepuro@stm.fi) or Caitlyn McKenzie (caitlyn.mckenzie@dfat.gov.au).

On behalf of the Co-Chairs,

Outi Kuivasniemi
Robin Davies