

OHS FORUM

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. The Occupational Health and Safety Forum, hereafter referred to as “OHS Forum”, is a UN-systemwide forum established by the HLCM at its 38th session in October 2019.
2. It is chaired by WHO and composed of experts nominated by the HLCM members. For business continuity there is also a vice-Chair nominated on a yearly rotational basis that is chosen by the Forum group from its nominated experts.
3. It serves as a multidisciplinary UN-systemwide technical body:
 - a. to mainstream OHS as a fundamental component of how Organizations meet their obligations towards staff and non-staff personnel, and the tools developed by the Cross-functional Task Force on Duty of Care in the UN system;
 - b. building on the experience gained with the Covid-19 pandemic and with the view of ensuring that the disproportionate impact the pandemic has on certain vulnerable and marginalized populations, including women, girls and those with disabilities are addressed, to develop and endorse UN-systemwide workplace health and safety norms and standards, and regularly monitor and evaluate their implementation;
 - c. to further develop and align OHS risk management methodologies to be applied within the UN system at headquarters and field locations;
 - d. to promote the holistic integration of OHS risk management into all operations and across all relevant UN-system roles (HR, Medical, Security, Administration, Occupational Health and Safety, etc.) and particularly into the work of Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams;
 - e. to develop a light monitoring framework to track of the recommendations of the Task Force and provide updates to HLCM, including recommendations on the organizational division of responsibilities related to occupational health and safety,
 - f. to inform the HLCM when occupational health and safety risks cannot be sufficiently mitigated despite all realistic and achievable measures.
4. It aims at supporting agency heads fulfilling their obligations in line with the accountability framework for staff health, safety and wellbeing in a manner which reflects the risks and the contexts in which their organizations work.
5. It offers an opportunity to act as a UN-Systemwide OHS Committee for matters related to OHS that require interagency alignment to:
 - a. better understand where the links between various roles and responsibilities regarding occupational health and safety are;
 - b. ensure coherence in approach to prevent any issues being overlooked;
 - c. mitigate and manage any health and safety risks, including public health risks, through the OHS implementation policies.
6. It provides for strategic direction, inter-agency coordination, common standards, and solutions that meet each Organization's operational needs efficiently, effectively, and from a joint field operations

perspective. It allows sharing of knowledge and experiences in order to enable Organizations to benefit from proven effective practices.

7. It builds on the momentum gained with the endorsement of the *Vision Statement* and the set of *Core Principles for a healthier, safer and more respectful UN workplace* by the HLCM in October 2019 and supports the process of a multifaceted OHS agenda becoming a reality in the whole UN system and the establishment of an OHS Management System throughout the UN system.

8. Its membership consists of experts nominated by the HLCM members in the following fields: Human Resources, Health and Wellbeing, Psychosocial services, Occupational Health and Safety, Environmental services, Security, Risk Management. Its membership includes representatives of the Staff Federations. CEB representatives have observer status.

9. It meets or holds virtual meetings quarterly, but the Chair may convene meetings more frequently if there is a common demand. To hold its meetings, the simple majority of participants is required. It operates on the basis of consensus.

10. It may carry out specific activities through task-forces chaired by members of the Forum, the composition and the terms of reference of which are specified when established by the OHS Forum.

11. Through its Chair or his/her representative, it brings issues to HLCM's attention and reports to it periodically.

12. Through its members it engages with the CEB technical networks, HLCM organizations, IASMN, the Implementation Board for the UN Strategy on Mental Health and Wellbeing, and related entities with an interest in workplace safety and health.