



Information about CIOMS Working Groups

- Most CIOMS working groups (WGs) are typically composed of individual topic experts from academia, regulatory authorities, international organizations and pharmaceutical sector for-profit companies. Depending on the topic under consideration, additional experts, representing other sectors, may also be invited to participate in the group. Some CIOMS working groups (WGs) — for example, those dealing with medical ethics issues — do not include any experts from for-profit organizations.
- Each WG report must list its members and their affiliations.
- In the interest of transparency, trust and accountability, and to ensure independent scientific value (including through elimination of bias or conflict of interest), each WG draft report is made available for public comment. Those who submit comments, and their affiliations, are also listed in the final WG report.
- No single authority, academic institution or pharmaceutical company can determine the final content of a WG report. Each WG report contains the following statement: "This document reflects the consensus opinion of the CIOMS [.....] Working Group. The group members are alone responsible, in their capacity as experts, for the views expressed in this publication. These views are those of the authors and should not be construed to represent the decisions, policies or opinions of a specific organization or agency."
- Any for-profit entity that participates in a CIOMS WG is requested to pay a fee. It is never the case that a single pharmaceutical company participates in a WG. Rather, several pharmaceutical companies, who are competitors in the marketplace, would participate.
- Pharmaceutical companies are not involved in decision making about topics selected for the CIOMS WGs.
- The fees collected from pharmaceutical companies are used to cover the costs of running the relevant WG and producing its report.
- The WG reports do not promote either companies/ organizations or their products, in any way. Whenever possible, when referring to specific medicines, CIOMS uses the International Nonproprietary Names designated for them by the World Health Organization, rather than their proprietary names.
- CIOMS is a not-for-profit organization — as recognized under Swiss law — and the surplus revenue it acquires is used to support other CIOMS activities, including WGs which produce "losses" that or are not supported by any other organization.
- CIOMS is an “association of associations”. For-profit entities, including pharmaceutical sector companies, are not (and cannot be) members of CIOMS.



- None of the WG members receives any financial compensation for their work from CIOMS. CIOMS may compensate academics, regulators and other not-for-profit parties for travel and accommodation costs incurred for participation in WG meetings.
- CIOMS is in the process of updating its procedures regarding conflict of interest and its disclosure, in order to better comply with contemporary standards.
- In the event of any COI or commercial sponsorship, the relevant information would be made available on the CIOMS website, but to date, none has been provided or found.