

endTB Data Sharing Initiative

Steering Committee

Terms of Reference

1. Approval and Governing Body

The Steering Committee shall approve its Terms of References (ToR). The Steering Committee shall adopt these TORs on their ratification by the all the members.

2. Purpose

The endTB Data Sharing Initiative (eDSI) has been established to promote ethical, equitable and transparent access to endTB data for a range of users who share the common goal of increasing knowledge and disseminating information to improve care for drug-resistant TB patients.

The eDSI has three distinct purposes:

- 1) host curated, cleaned, pseudonymized data on diagnosis and treatment of drug-resistant TB, from the endTB project;
- 2) manage requests for access to endTB datasets;
- 3) promote research performed by people from countries that have contributed the data.

The purpose of the Steering Committee is to define and oversee the eDSI policy, strategic direction, and management.

The members of the Steering Committee will ensure the eDSI works in compliance with the eDSI Charter.

3. Membership

The Steering Committee shall comprise 9-12 voting members. It will be constituted from: endTB consortium partners/signatories to the endTB Research Agreement, countries contributing data (3-4), affected communities/TB activist organizations/community advisory boards (>=2). Membership will bring a representative balance of skills and expertise in clinical research, data protection and management, ethics in research, benefit sharing and community engagement.

At inception of the eDSI, the Steering Committee shall be constituted by soliciting nominations from TB program leadership (and/or important private-sector partners) of countries contributing the largest number of observations to the datasets and representing a diverse geographical distribution. Nominations for community members will be solicited from organizations of affected communities/civil society. Each organization included in the endTB consortium will nominate representation in the Steering Committee. Selection will be made by the eDSI Task Force.

There can only be one representative per institution and no individual can represent more than one institution. The Steering Committee will avoid gender and geographical imbalances and work toward broad representation.

Membership will be reviewed based on needs. If changes in membership distribution (e.g., fewer country representatives) occur, the SC shall notify supervising ECs/IRBs.

Eligibility

Members must agree to abide by the eDSI Charter, Ethics Framework and Conflicts of interest Policy, and the present ToR (referred to collectively as the Governance Framework).

Alternate members

A representative may nominate an individual from their country or institution to take his or her place as an alternate member.

Membership Term

The Steering Committee members can hold their position for 3 years. Every effort will be made to rotate members off, and new members on, after a single term. However, members can serve for a maximum of 2 terms. Timing of rotation on and off the Committee will be staggered to ensure continuity of membership where possible. The Steering Committee can appoint new members. Country members will be selected by the Steering Committee through a nomination process that gives priority to countries that contributed data which were not previously represented on the Steering Committee. New community member nominations will be solicited from organizations of affected communities/civil society. Each organization included in the endTB consortium will nominate new representation in the Steering Committee.

Resignation & revocation of membership

Members are free to resign their position with immediate effect. Notice of 3 months is preferred. Named alternate members may replace institutional members for the remainder of their term.

Membership on the Steering Committee can be revoked by the other members of the Steering Committee for breach of any part of the eDSI Governance Framework. In such a case, the institution/constituency represented would be asked to nominate a replacement.

4. Chair

The Steering Committee shall appoint a Chair. These positions will be held on a 2-year basis. The Chair can be re-elected and can serve a maximum of 3 terms.

5. External Observers

With agreement of the Steering Committee, individuals who are not members of the Steering Committee may attend and participate in any Steering Committee meeting or part of a meeting, but non-members may not participate in decision-making.

6. Administration

The eDSI administrator will provide administrative services to the Steering Committee in accordance with the Administrator Terms of Reference. They will receive and distribute communications on its behalf and manage and coordinate required meeting. The Administrator will make publicly available, where possible, summaries of minutes and materials online on the endTB website.

7. Quorum

No business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Steering Committee unless a quorum is present. A quorum is at least 50% + 1 of the total voting memberships at the time. The Chair and alternate members shall count toward the quorum.

In the absence of the Chair at a meeting, the present members of the Steering Committee shall appoint one of their number to chair the meeting.

8. Meeting Frequency

The Steering Committee shall meet at least once a year (in person or virtually).

A special meeting may be called at any time (in person or virtually) when requested by the Chair or by at least 2 members of the Steering Committee. At least 2 days' notice of the meeting and matters to be discussed shall be given to the other Steering Committee members.

9. Operations

The Committee may regulate its own procedures subject to the provisions of these Terms of Reference.

The Administrator shall notify and record meeting activities and disseminate information according to the ToR of the Administrator.

Any member wishing to place an item on the agenda for a Steering Committee meeting must provide details to the Administrator in advance of the meeting.

The Steering Committee may arrange for collective decision-making by exchange of emails outside of meetings as long as the SC is satisfied that to do so is appropriate. Decisions made by exchange of emails shall be formally documented at the next meeting.

The Steering Committee may create and dissolve committees or subgroups of its members and shall determine the terms of reference of any such committee subject to the provisions of the eDSI Governance Framework.

Each party will execute its duties in good faith.

10. Duties:

The Steering Committee shall have the following powers and responsibilities:

- Oversight of the eDSI and its strategy, policies, management, internal procedures and activities, in compliance with the eDSI Governance Framework;
- Oversight, development and promotion of plans and activities to embody the following principles of CIOMS: equitable distributions, community engagement, capacity building and collaborative partnerships;
- Ensure transparency of the eDSI operations and governance and effective communication about the eDSI: review and approve public communication of materials;
- Validation of Data Access Committee membership;
- Support Data Access Committee activities (as per the Data Access Committee Terms of Reference); Review requests that require SC input. Resolve any data access appeals in accordance with the Data Access Guidelines;
- Ensure implementation of the Conflict-of-Interest policy. Resolve any Conflict-of-Interest appeals;
- Ensure implementation of non-disclosure policy with respect to eDSI projects;
- Review performance of eDSI (e.g. through self assessment tool/checklist or customer satisfaction surveys). Agree on potential expansion of the eDSI (new partnerships or new datasets beyond original scope). Consider and agree on dissolution of eDSI, as necessary;
- Agree on changes to the governance structure of the eDSI (e.g. Ethics Framework, Data Access Committee ToR, Steering Committee ToR, eDSI Charter) before notification to ethical review boards who supervise the eDSI;

Two-thirds of those present (or of those who respond by email) are required to make most decisions. For governance decisions, two-thirds of the voting members are required to make decisions. Each individual member has one vote.

11. Accountability

The Steering Committee is accountable to the endTB consortium and to the institutions and/or constituencies that members represent. The SC may be requested to report on project compliance/progress to the institutions/constituencies.

12. Interests of Steering Committee Members

The Chair of the Steering Committee will seek verbal confirmation at the start of any meeting that the Declaration of Interests of each member is current and up to date, with particular attention to the items on the agenda for that meeting. It is the duty of each member of the Steering Committee to declare interests not only at the start of meetings but as and when they arise in accordance with the Conflict-of-Interest Policy.

13. Reporting responsibilities

Each member of the Steering Committee shall disseminate minutes and reports of the Steering Committee meetings to the institution or constituency that member represents.

Summaries of Steering Committee decisions shall be available on the endTB website.