



Terms of Reference International Scientific Committee

Proposal February 2008

Introduction

Article 4 of the Standing Orders of the Choices International Foundation states the following regarding the Scientific Committee:

Scientific Committee

4.1 Pursuant to article 11, paragraph 2 of the Articles, the Board has established a scientific committee (the "Scientific Committee").

4.2 The main objective of the Scientific Committee is to safeguard the quality of the global benchmarks by providing adequate scientific guidance.

4.3 It is a requirement that the Scientific Committee is strictly independent from the other bodies of the Foundation. The chairman of the Scientific Committee shall serve as scientific advisor to the Board.

4.4 The Board will prepare Terms of Reference for the Scientific Committee and its members.

The Terms of Reference referred to in sub clause 4 are established on the following pages.



Composition

- The Board will appoint the members of the Committee, as well as its chairman.
- The Committee will have 8 to 14 members (including the chairman) of different nationalities and from different regions.
- Members should have a high scientific level, knowledge of international developments in their field.
- The Committee will be composed in such a way, that expertise is available in the following areas: nutrition, food technology, consumer behaviour.
- Members will commit themselves to the Committee for a period of three years, after which the Board may decide to invite parting members for another three year period.

Independence

- Membership of the Committee is in a personal capacity.
- Members shall guard their independent position in the Scientific Committee.
- Members shall not advise individual companies on the application of the Choices criteria to their products.
- Members will submit a declaration of independence, stating their other functions and relationships with industry and governments. These relationships will be kept by the chairman in a publicly available register.
- Members do not receive a fee for their work in the Committee. Their expenses will be reimbursed.

Duties

- To review periodically the qualifying criteria of the Choices Programme, and recommend amendments to the Board.
- To recommend specific variations and exemptions in the application of the qualifying criteria, e.g. for specific products or countries.
- To report in a transparent way on the considerations on which decisions regarding the qualifying criteria are based.
- To advise on further development of the Choices Programme.
- To advise on research aimed at monitoring and evaluation of the Choices Programme.
- On the request of the Board, to make recommendations on the application of the qualifying criteria to specific product evaluations.
- On the request of the Board, to deal with specific questions and issues raised by the participating companies.



- In coordination with the Board, to represent the Choices International Foundation in (scientific) fora.

Duties of the chairman

- To chair the meetings of the Committee.
- To attend Board meetings as an advisory member.
- To report the proceedings of the Committee to the Board.
- To keep a register of financial relationships of the Committee's members with industry and governments.

Working procedures

- The Committee will meet once a year, and more often if needed.
- Inbetween meetings, the Committee will communicate via electronic means, including a web-based platform that is specifically designed for the Committee.
- The Committee will be supported by a secretary.
- The meetings and internal communication of the Committee are confidential; its recommendations are public.
- The Committee will decide by majority of votes.
- On the request of the Board, advisory members from the participating companies can attend the Committee's meetings. These do not have voting rights.
- The Committee can set up sub-committees which can include experts from participating companies.