

Public Consultations Watch :: Global Calls for Input/Public Comment/RFIs

Issue 44 :: 22 Oct 2026

GE2P2 Global is an integrated non-profit foundation and public benefit corporation formed to advance scientific rigor, ethical resilience, and integrity in research and evidence generation – informing responsible governance, policy, and practice.

In the context of this mission, GE2P2 Global monitors public consultations/calls for input/RFIs and similar opportunities across its focus areas of global health, human rights, humanitarian action, education/literacy, heritage, climate/environment, peace, and sustainable development.

Monitoring this span of sectors yields a broad variety of public comment opportunities, even though this modality is not employed in any uniform way across the UN system, multilateral agencies, INGOs, member states or their ministerial/regulatory bodies. As we are still exploring this monitoring approach and broadening the range of calls included, we stress that this is an indicative and not an exhaustive digest.

In parallel, GE2P2 Global is striving to respond to public consultation opportunities where the experience and expertise of members of our growing community of practice suggest that a meaningful contribution can be developed. The GE2P2 Global Foundation also functions as the secretariat for the Global Forum for Research Ethics and Integrity – a global group of individuals from over 30 countries who collaborate on analysis and action, including response to selected public consultations.

We welcome information about calls for public consultation – at global or country level – to help enrich this digest. Equally, individuals and organizations/institutions interested in collaborating on joint responses to any of the opportunities listed below are welcome to contact us [David R Curry, GE2P2 Global Foundation, david.r.curry@ge2p2global.org].

Acknowledgements: We appreciate the support of Foundation Senior Fellow Gerald Schatz, JD for his continuing support in helping identify calls included in this digest, and Associate Fellow Sedem Adiabu, MPH, for her critical role in the secretariat function which supports development of submissions to selected calls.

Digest content is organized in three sections:

- [1] Title and source of all calls organized [by due date](#) [p.2 ff]
- [2] [All calls, listed with more comprehensive information](#) [i.e., objective, scope] organized by due date under thematic areas: Biomedical Research; Environment/Climate; Human Rights+ [p.5 ff]
- [3] [Selected Supplementary Content](#) including Final, Published Guidances/Regulations/Laws Employing Calls for Public Consultation [p.15 ff]

We expect to add thematic areas as our digest evolves and becomes more comprehensive.

Calls for Public Consultation: Title/Source/Sorted by Due Dat

Request for Information: Draft NIH Policy on Sharing Summary Level Study Results with Clinical Research Participants

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH) Notice Number: NOT-OD-26-113
Release Date: August 27, 2026 **Response Date: October 26, 2026**

NEW - Public consultation on including underrepresented populations in clinical trials

WHO Call for consultation 14 September 2026 **The consultation will be open to 29 October 2026.**

Call for inputs - Strategic Priorities and Vision-Setting of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

Special Procedures Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression
Deadline: 31 October 2026

Call for input on environmental destruction and its human rights impacts in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Special Procedures Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 **Deadline: 01 November 2026**

NEW - Public consultation on the “Guidance on understanding, compiling, organizing and managing metadata” (2026)

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Statistics
28 September 2026 **Questionnaire response due 01 November 2026**

Advancing Development of Botanical Drug Products; Request for Information

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS. Food and Drug Administration
[Docket No. FDA-2026-N-9550] **Comments due November 3, 2026**

Establishment of a Quantitative Medicine Innovation Network: Scope, Feasibility, and Opportunities; Request for Information

A Notice by the Food and Drug Administration on 08/05/2026
This document has a comment period that ends in 60 days. (11/03/2026)

NEW - WHO guidelines on quality risk management

WHO - DRAFT WORKING DOCUMENT FOR COMMENTS: Comments should be submitted through the online platform **by 15 November 2026**

NEW - Public consultation: Hand Hygiene Guidelines Implementation Toolkit

WHO – UNICEF **Consultation runs 15 October – 15 November 2026**

NEW - Call for input: Implementation of the update to the technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity

Issued by OHCHR **Deadline: 17 November 2026**

NEW - Call for Input - Digital Heritage

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights **Deadline: 20 November 2026**

Call for input for EMRTD study "Illicit Financial Flows and the Right to Development"

HRC subsidiary body Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

Deadline: 16 November 2026

NEW - Data Intermediaries and Approaches To Strengthen Public Health Data Exchange

A Notice by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on 09/21/2026

This document has a **comment period that ends in 29 days. (11/20/2026)** [Docket CDC-2026-1519]

Call for input from the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity on the human rights situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and other gender-diverse (LGBT) persons deprived of liberty

Special Procedures Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity **Deadline: 30 November 2026**

NEW - Request for Information (RFI) on Future Needs for Medical Metrology and Standards for Medical Imaging, Devices, Diagnostics and Therapy

A Notice by the National Institute of Standards and Technology on 09/18/2026

This document has a **comment period that ends in 39 days. (11/30/2026)** [Docket Number: 260909-0004]

NEW - Call for comments - Draft recommended guidelines for applying the existing human rights framework to neurotechnologies

UN OHCHR – Issued by Advisory Committee **Deadline: 30 November 2026**

NEW - Fit-for-Purpose Rare Disease Framework Initiative; Public Meeting; Request for Information and Comments

A Notice by the Food and Drug Administration on 10/16/2026 [Docket No. FDA-2026-N-12214]

Notice of public meeting; request for information/comments. Comment period ends 12/11/2026.

FDA Rare Disease Innovation Hub Future Programming; Request for Comments

A Notice by the Food and Drug Administration on 01/30/2026

This document has a **comment period ends 12/31/2026.**

NEW - Call for inputs: Human rights and climate adaptation

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights **Deadline: 31 December 2026**

NEW - Reflection paper on methodological aspects in confirmatory platform trials

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EMA Reference Number: EMA/217509/2026 Consultation dates: 19/10/2026 to **31/01/2027**
 Draft: consultation open https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/scientific-guideline/reflection-paper-methodological-aspects-confirmatory-platform-trials_en.pdf

Advancing Global Health Grants Notice: DFOP0017890

Agency: US Dept of State, Bureau of Global Health Security and Diplomacy

Expected Number of Awards: 100

Original Closing Date for Applications: Feb 14, 2027

Current Closing Date for Applications: Feb 14, 2027

NEW - Consultation on the digital provision of law: Towards a shared reference framework for Law as Code

OECD - Public consultation: **Submission period 29 Jul 2026 - 30 Apr 2027**

Consultation on the digital provision of law: Towards a shared reference framework for law as code

This OECD consultation seeks input on developing a shared international reference framework for Law as Code—the transformation of enacted laws into machine-executable formats.

Public consultation: 29 Jul 2026 - 1 May 2027

ISO/AWI 14155 - Biological and clinical evaluation of medical devices

ISO/TC 194 Stage 20.00

Due: Ongoing at national standards bodies level

Contribute a tool - Catalogue of Tools & Metrics for Trustworthy AI

OECD-AI Policy Observatory

Contribute your tools and metrics to our catalogue. No deadline date identified.

This catalogue is a platform where AI practitioners from all over the world can share and compare tools and metrics to help make AI trustworthy, build upon each other's efforts to create global good practices, and speed up the process of implementing the OECD AI Principles. This catalogue can only exist with your contributions and those of AI practitioners from all sectors. You can also share your experience using a tool or metric by submitting a use case.

:: [Contribute a tool](#)

:: [Share your experience using a tool](#)

A framework for evaluating rapidly developing digital and related technologies: AI, large language models and beyond - International Science Council Discussion Paper: Invitation to Comment

International Science Council [ISC]

No submission deadline date identified.

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Public Consultation Calls: Purpose/Objective/Scope/Background Information – Sorted by Thematic Area

Biomedical Research/Regulation/Governance

Request for Information: Draft NIH Policy on Sharing Summary Level Study Results with Clinical Research Participants

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH) Notice Number: NOT-OD-26-113

Release Date: August 27, 2026 **Response Date: October 26, 2026**

Purpose

Background

Partnership with the public is essential to driving meaningful scientific advances capable of improving the health of all. Returning value to individuals who participate in clinical research enhances partnerships and enables NIH to foster innovative health discoveries, strengthen scientific resources to prevent disease, expand medical knowledge, and uphold the highest standards of integrity and accountability in scientific research. As outlined by the Novel and Exceptional Technology and Research Advisory Committee, returning research results is one important strategy for returning value to research participants...

Request for Information

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking public input on a new policy proposal requiring summary level study results from NIH supported clinical research to be shared with participants of those studies. NIH is also seeking input on areas for which supplemental guidance would enable successful implementation with minimal administrative burden. Through this policy, NIH intends to strengthen respectful, transparent partnerships with clinical research participants and enable them to benefit through translation of discoveries into improved health.

NIH seeks public input on its proposed NIH Policy on Sharing Summary Level Study Results with Clinical Research Participants, including ways to promote and enable the research community to share summary level study results with clinical research participants. NIH welcomes input from researchers, clinical research participants, clinicians, professional organizations, and other interested members of the public. Comments are also sought on specific considerations for how NIH can promote and enable the research community to feasibly share summary level study results with clinical research participants with minimal administrative burden. This feedback may inform the identification of topics and content for potential supplemental guidance.

NEW - Public consultation on including underrepresented populations in clinical trials

WHO Call for consultation 14 September 2026 **The consultation will be open to 29 October 2026.**

Summary

The World Health Organization (WHO) invites stakeholders to contribute to a public consultation on improving the inclusion of underrepresented populations in clinical trials.

The consultation seeks views on current challenges, barriers to participation, priorities for improving inclusion, and actions that could strengthen trial design, recruitment, reporting, accountability and community engagement.

WHO welcomes input from researchers, clinical trialists, ethics committee members, funders, policymakers, healthcare professionals, organizations representing patients and communities, and other interested stakeholders across different countries and regions.

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Complete the consultation survey: <https://extranet.who.int/dataformv6/index.php/764321?lang=en>

Responses will be analysed in aggregate. Individual respondents will not be identified. Findings from this public consultation will contribute to the development and refinement of recommendations to improve the inclusion of underrepresented populations in clinical trials.

About the project

This consultation forms part of a WHO-supported international project led by Cochrane Response, with consultation activities led by researchers at La Trobe University. The project aims to identify barriers to participation, review existing policies and guidance, and develop practical recommendations to support more inclusive clinical trials.

Advancing Development of Botanical Drug Products; Request for Information

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS. Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. FDA-2026-N-9550] **Comments due November 3, 2026**

SUMMARY:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) is opening a public docket to solicit comments on FDA's efforts to advance development of botanical drug products (BDPs). FDA is publishing this request for information to better understand stakeholders' perspectives on the state of BDP development in the United States, challenges encountered, and potential solutions to gathering the information required by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act).

Background

There is broad public interest in botanical products among consumers, researchers, clinicians, industry, the U.S. Federal Government, and international regulators. Consumers report widespread use of botanical products for self-treatment of a variety of conditions. In light of this, FDA seeks to facilitate additional research on botanicals, with the goal of accelerating drug product development and review of clinical treatments in this space.

In this notice, the terms "botanicals," "botanical drug products," and "BDPs" refer to drug products that include or may be derived from plant materials, algae, macroscopic fungi, or combinations thereof and that are intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in humans.¹ BDPs may be available as, but are not limited to, solutions (e.g., tea), powders, tablets, capsules, tinctures, topicals, or injections.

The inherent heterogeneity of botanicals creates unique challenges in research, product development, and regulatory review. In recognition of these unique considerations, FDA published the guidance for industry "Botanical Drug Development" on December 29, 2016 (81 FR 96018) (available at <https://www.fda.gov/media/93113/download>),² outlining recommendations related to characterization, quality control, clinical investigation, and regulatory considerations for BDPs. Despite increasing interest in plant-based medicines, researchers and developers of botanicals report a variety of challenges, such as clinical trial design and implementation, production quality and consistency, and other development considerations...

Establishment of a Quantitative Medicine Innovation Network: Scope, Feasibility, and Opportunities; Request for Information

A Notice by the Food and Drug Administration on 08/05/2026

This document has a comment period that ends in 60 days. (11/03/2026)

SUMMARY

The Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) within the Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency), through its Quantitative Medicine Center of Excellence (QM CoE), is announcing a request for information to inform the development of a Quantitative Medicine Innovation Network (QMIN). The vision for the QMIN is to create a cross-sector collaborative platform that accelerates the translation of

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quantitative medicine approaches to transform drug development, regulatory science, and clinical decision-making for patient benefit. The purpose of this request is to obtain feedback from industry, academia, healthcare providers, patient groups, and other interested parties on identifying critical community needs and establishing mechanisms for continuous engagement, supporting collaborative demonstration projects or research on innovative approaches aimed at addressing high priority areas through the application of QM approaches, and exploring mechanisms to leverage community expertise and capacity to promote QM innovation and adoption. Information submitted in response to this request will be considered in shaping the structure, priorities, and activities of the QMIN.

Background

FDA is announcing a request for information titled “Establishment of a Quantitative Medicine Innovation Network: Scope, Feasibility, and Opportunities.” Information submitted in response to this notice will be used by CDER's Quantitative Medicine Center of Excellence (QM CoE) to inform the development and implementation of a cross-sector innovation network.

The proposed mission for the QMIN is to connect FDA scientists, academia, industry, healthcare providers, patient groups, and other regulatory partners in driving the development and application of quantitative medicine to tackle critical unmet needs of the community by fundamentally transforming drug development and clinical care.

Quantitative medicine approaches integrate mathematical and computational models with biological, clinical, and statistical data to inform drug development, regulatory, and clinical decisions. These approaches have the potential to improve the efficiency of drug development, optimize treatment strategies, and ultimately improve patient outcomes.

The QM CoE seeks to establish a collaborative ecosystem that brings together diverse stakeholders to advance the science and application of quantitative medicine toward transformative capabilities. The QMIN is envisioned as a multi-stakeholder network to accelerate the translation of quantitative approaches across the drug discovery, development, regulation, and utilization continuum, fundamentally transforming how safe and effective therapies reach patients. This request for information is designed to gather input on how best to structure and implement the QMIN to maximize its impact on public health...

NEW - WHO guidelines on quality risk management

WHO - DRAFT WORKING DOCUMENT FOR COMMENTS: Comments should be submitted through the online platform **by 15 November 2026**

...The aim of these guidelines is to assist the development and implementation of effective QRM, covering activities such as research and development, sourcing of materials, manufacturing, packaging, testing, storage and distribution.

Effective and proactive quality risk management can enable better, more informed and timely decisions throughout the lifecycle. This can provide regulators with greater assurance of a company's ability to deal with potential risks and avert problems and can beneficially affect the extent and level of direct regulatory oversight...

DRAFT: https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/mhp-hps/2026-09-18_gas26_994_qrm_mna.pdf?sfvrsn=be1fb7b9_4

NEW - Public consultation: Hand Hygiene Guidelines Implementation Toolkit

WHO – UNICEF **Consultation runs 15 October – 15 November 2026**

To mark Global Handwashing Day 2026, WHO and UNICEF are inviting feedback on the draft Hand Hygiene Guidelines Implementation Toolkit, designed to support implementation of the WHO/UNICEF Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Community Settings.

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The toolkit provides practical, adaptable resources to help governments, practitioners and partners strengthen hand hygiene systems through two complementary pathways: improving the national-level enabling environment, including governance, financing and planning; and strengthening community-level service delivery, including infrastructure, supplies and behaviour change.

The public consultation seeks feedback on the toolkit's proposed structure and tools, as well as examples of relevant country experiences and resources that could inform its development. Participants are invited to review this consultation document and submit their feedback through the online form by 15 November 2026. The consultation form takes approximately 15–20 minutes to complete.

NEW - Call for input: Implementation of the update to the technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity

Issued by OHCHR **Deadline: 17 November 2026**

Purpose:

To inform the preparation of a report on the implementation of the update to the technical guidance on preventable maternal mortality and morbidity, to be presented to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-sixth session in September 2027.

Background:

Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 60/18, entitled “Preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights” and adopted on 7 October 2025, OHCHR will facilitate consultations on the implementation of the update to the technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity, as well as on best practices related to its implementation. OHCHR will compile and analyse examples of best practices emerging from those consultations into a report, which will be presented to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-sixth session in September 2027.

Objectives

In this context, OHCHR would like to invite all United Nations Member States, United Nations entities, regional organizations, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, financial institutions, independent experts of human rights treaty bodies and Human Rights Council special procedures, civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders, such as health providers and humanitarian actors, to submit information on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the update to the technical guidance. OHCHR would appreciate receiving written contributions, comprising replies to the guiding questions.

NEW - Data Intermediaries and Approaches To Strengthen Public Health Data Exchange

A Notice by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on 09/21/2026

This document has a **comment period that ends in 29 days. (11/20/2026)** [Docket CDC-2026-1519]

SUMMARY:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) seeks broad public input on how data intermediaries can be used to support secure, scalable, standards-based public health data exchange. CDC invites public comment to inform the evaluation and to explore how data intermediaries can advance broader goals to prevent disease, detect emerging threats, drive state-of-the-art solutions that empower communities, and strengthen public health systems for a safer, healthier nation...

...Data intermediaries—trusted organization, network, platform, or governed service that enables secure, standards-based exchange and stewardship of health-related data—have long supported critical aspects of data exchange among public health agencies and between public health and healthcare (see Section II.A. for a comprehensive definition). However, the evolving health IT ecosystem presents new opportunities to consider how a range of intermediary models and capabilities can more effectively

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support public health data needs while also delivering value to healthcare. The continued evolution of health information exchanges (HIEs), including the emergence of health data utilities (HDUs), alongside broader developments such as the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Digital Health Tech Ecosystem, provides an opportunity to examine how intermediaries can collectively enable more seamless, timely, and scalable data exchange, and move the ecosystem beyond technical interoperability toward greater data liquidity. Given these developments, CDC is evaluating how data intermediaries can be used to support secure, scalable, standards-based public health data exchange, while protecting privacy.

...II. Solicitation of Public Comments

CDC is evaluating how data intermediaries can support secure, scalable, standards-based public health data exchange. CDC invites public comment to inform that evaluation and to explore how data intermediaries can advance broader goals to prevent disease, detect emerging threats, drive state-of-the-art solutions that empower communities, and strengthen public health systems for a safer, healthier nation.

We encourage interested parties to respond to as many of the questions below as possible. The questions are intended to solicit input from multiple individuals and groups. To support CDC's review of responses, please prioritize clarity and conciseness and identify the applicable question label(s) (for example, XX-1).

NEW - Request for Information (RFI) on Future Needs for Medical Metrology and Standards for Medical Imaging, Devices, Diagnostics and Therapy

A Notice by the [National Institute of Standards and Technology](#) on [09/18/2026](#)

This document has a **comment period that ends in 39 days. (11/30/2026)** [Docket Number: 260909-0004]

SUMMARY:

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB), a part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), are requesting input from stakeholders in order to gain a better understanding of the future needs for medical metrology and standards around medical imaging, devices, and diagnostics.

This request for information is coordinated with a NIST/NIBIB Symposium on Medical Metrology and Standards for American Healthcare and Commerce Medical Imaging, Devices, Diagnostics at the joint NIST/University of Maryland Institute (UMD) for Bioscience and Biotechnology Research (IBBR). The input received will inform a joint NIST and NIBIB medical metrology and standards roadmap, a document that will identify future needs for medical metrology and standards, identify major stakeholders, and provide guidance for future government programs...

Request for Information

- NIST and NIBIB seek information on the following topic areas, including but not limited to:
- :: Areas where there is a need for improved medical measurements relating to medical imaging, devices, diagnostics and therapy and how we can provide the needed standards and validation of these measurements.
 - :: Identification of future medical standards efforts for new measurement areas that may not be currently addressed.
 - :: Suggested changes to the medical metrology and standards process to allow improved and cost-effective healthcare in a time of rapidly changing technology and incorporation of AI.
 - :: Examples of how medical metrology and standards have improved diagnostics, therapeutic outcomes, and cost efficiency. Examples where they are detrimental.

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NEW - Call for comments - Draft recommended guidelines for applying the existing human rights framework to neurotechnologies

UN OHCHR – Issued by Advisory Committee **Deadline: 30 November 2026**

Background

Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 58/6 entitled “Neurotechnology and human rights”, the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee is drafting a set of recommended guidelines for applying the existing human rights framework to the conception, design, development, testing, use and deployment of neurotechnologies, to be presented to the Council at its sixty-fourth session (22 February-2 April 2027).

Objectives

The Advisory Committee invites States, international organizations, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, human rights mechanisms and other relevant stakeholders to submit written comments on the draft text entitled “Recommended guidelines for applying the existing human rights framework to neurotechnologies”. The comments received will assist the drafting group and the Advisory Committee in finalizing the recommended guidelines prior to their submission to the Human Rights Council.

Key questions and types of input/comments sought

Interested stakeholders are invited to submit concise and focused written comments in English or French, in a separate document not exceeding 1,500 words. Comments should not take the form of tracked changes, inline edits or comments inserted directly into the draft text.

Unless marked as confidential, comments will be published on the website of the Advisory Committee. To facilitate the timely finalization of the guidelines, the deadline will be strictly applied and no extensions will be granted.

Draft recommended guidelines for applying the existing human rights framework to neurotechnologies

NEW - Fit-for-Purpose Rare Disease Framework Initiative; Public Meeting; Request for Information and Comments

A Notice by the Food and Drug Administration on 10/16/2026 [Docket No. FDA-2026-N-12214]

Notice of public meeting; request for information/comments. Comment period ends 12/11/2026.

SUMMARY:

The Food and Drug Administration is announcing a public meeting entitled “Fit-for-Purpose Rare Disease Framework Initiative”. Convened by the Reagan-Udall Foundation for, and in collaboration with FDA, the meeting will focus on developing a fit-for-purpose framework for the development and regulatory review of rare disease therapies. There will be an opportunity to request to provide public comments at the meeting. In addition, FDA is establishing a public docket to collect feedback on and input related to its Rare Disease Framework Initiative.

DATES:

The hybrid public meeting will be held on October 28, 2026, from 1 to 5 p.m. Eastern Time, and will take place in-person and virtually. Either electronic or written comments must be submitted by December 11, 2026.

...II. Issues for Consideration and Request for Information

FDA is seeking feedback from the public—including rare disease drug developers, patients living with rare diseases and their caregivers, disease advocates, and researchers—on persistent challenges for the development of rare disease therapies, as well as input on how a tailored approach to regulatory review might mitigate these challenges. Feedback will inform development of the framework and potential implementation actions, which may include new or revised guidance documents related to rare disease drug development and regulatory review, revisions to FDA's regulations, training for FDA review staff, and organizational enhancements.

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FDA Rare Disease Innovation Hub Future Programming; Request for Comments

A Notice by the Food and Drug Administration on 01/30/2026

This document has a **comment period that ends in 328 days. (12/31/2026)**

SUMMARY:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or the Agency) is announcing the following request for comments for a future public workshop series entitled “Rare disease Innovation, Science, and Exploration (RISE) Workshop.” The purpose of the public workshops is to focus on challenges that are common to multiple diseases or a class of diseases, and for which evolving science offers innovative solutions. The workshops will primarily focus on cross-cutting or common issues and will not be focused on any specific product under review by the Agency. The Agency further welcomes comments that highlight general rare disease-related issues of potential interest for the FDA Rare Disease Innovation Hub (Hub) to inform its future activities

NEW - Reflection paper on methodological aspects in confirmatory platform trials

EMA Reference Number: EMA/217509/2026 Consultation dates: 19/10/2026 to **31/01/2027**

Draft: consultation open https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/scientific-guideline/reflection-paper-methodological-aspects-confirmatory-platform-trials_en.pdf

Summary:

The aim of this reflection paper is to complement existing guidance documents, e.g. on multiplicity and adaptive designs, not to replace or revise them.

Advancing Global Health Grants Notice: DFOP0017890

Agency: US Dept of State, Bureau of Global Health Security and Diplomacy

Expected Number of Awards: 100

Original Closing Date for Applications: Feb 14, 2027

Current Closing Date for Applications: Feb 14, 2027

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$ 2,147,483,647

Award Ceiling: \$250,000,000

Award Floor: \$500,000

Last Updated: August 18, 2026

Description

The Department of State invites eligible applicants to advance the America First Global Health Strategy, which aims to save lives, strengthen health systems, enhance efficiency, foster self-reliance, and ensure U.S. investments benefit American safety, strength, and prosperity. This Annual Program Statement (APS) establishes a supplemental framework through which the Department of State may identify and support projects that complement, extend, and/or fill identified gaps in the implementation of these bilateral MOUs. Through specific Addenda, the Department will signal priorities and needs. This APS provides the standard application instructions for the submission of all Statements of Interest (SOIs) to these specific Addenda. GHSD will collaborate with Embassies and other Department of State Bureaus and Offices to post specific funding opportunities through Addenda to this APS that address health challenges and priorities of importance. APS provides the standard application instructions for the submission of all Statements of Interest (SOIs) to these specific Addenda. GHSD will collaborate with Embassies and other Department of State Bureaus and Offices to post specific funding opportunities through Addenda to this APS that address health challenges and priorities of importance.

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Human Rights

:: Call for Public Consultation

Call for Inputs: Child Rights and Safety in the Digital Environment

Issued by OHCHR **Deadline: 30 October 2026**

Purpose:

OHCHR seeks inputs from stakeholders to inform its substantive report on Children's Rights and Safety in the Digital Environment, to be presented to the Human Rights Council at its 64th session (February to March 2027).

Background

In its Resolution 56/6, the Human Rights Council requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to convene five regional consultations to assess the risks to the safety of the child in the digital environment and best practices to address these risks in different geographical areas, bearing in mind current and emerging business models. The resolution also requests OHCHR to prepare a report containing a summary of those consultations, in an accessible and child-friendly format, which includes recommendations from the different stakeholders. The report will be presented to the Human Rights Council at its 64th session (February – March 2027), and will inform an interactive dialogue among States, which may lead to HRC-mandated follow-up.

Documents: Concept Note ([English](#) | [Français](#) | [Español](#))

Call for inputs - Strategic Priorities and Vision-Setting of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

Special Procedures Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression

Deadline: 31 October 2026

Purpose

To submit information, views and recommendations that will inform the 2027 vision-setting report and the development of the mandate's strategic priorities for the period 2026-2029, to be presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2027.

Background

Freedom of opinion and expression is undergoing profound transformations driven by geopolitical shifts, democratic backsliding, armed conflicts, gender inequality, racism, and environmental issues, as well as rapid technological change and the evolution of digital information ecosystems. At the same time, a growing range of new actors, including technology companies, criminal organizations, private entities and transnational movements, are increasingly shaping the conditions under which individuals seek, receive and impart information, views and ideas.

Before finalizing the strategic priorities that will guide the work of the Special Rapporteur's mandate, the Special Rapporteur would like to invite Member States, civil society organizations, journalists, academics, human rights defenders, digital and technology experts, international organizations and other interested stakeholders to share their views, identify key issues and provide recommendations.

Objectives

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression invites all interested stakeholders to submit information, views and recommendations that will inform his 2027 vision-setting report and the development of the mandate's strategic priorities for the period 2026-2029, to be presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2027.

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The current call for submissions is intended to mark the beginning of an ongoing dialogue with relevant stakeholders from all regions of the world and to ensure that the mandate's work remains responsive to emerging challenges and opportunities affecting freedom of opinion and expression...

Call for input on environmental destruction and its human rights impacts in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Special Procedures Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 **Deadline: 01 November 2026**

Purpose

To inform a study on environmental destruction and degradation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including immediate, cumulative, trans-boundary and intergenerational impacts, particularly the unprecedented destruction in Gaza since 7 October 2023...

Objectives

The study will examine these developments within the broader context of Israel's unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian territory, as affirmed by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in its Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024, and Palestinians' right to self-determination. It will also consider relevant international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international criminal law, including the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and examine how legal, security and environmental narratives are invoked to justify, normalise or obscure environmental destruction. The study will further draw on the law of State responsibility; the 21 May 2024 Advisory Opinion of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) on climate change, particularly its findings concerning transboundary environmental harm and marine pollution from land-based and atmospheric sources; the ICJ's 23 July 2025 Advisory Opinion on States' obligations in respect of climate change, particularly its findings regarding state duties to prevent significant environmental harm, including future and cumulative risks of such harm; as well as the criminal proceedings before the International Criminal Court concerning alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Situation in the State of Palestine.

The report will therefore examine patterns of deliberate and systematic environmental destruction and degradation arising from Israel's occupation and military and settler operations, tracing their impacts from the extraction, manufacture and transportation of materials and technologies through their deployment, contamination and waste, to remediation and reconstruction, including the preservation of evidence. It will assess their cumulative and intergenerational consequences for Palestinian life, health, livelihoods, food systems, cultural knowledge and practices, displacement, return, reconstruction and the enjoyment of human rights. The study will also consider the extent to which such harms may be irreversible or incapable of full remediation...

Call for input for EMRTD study "Illicit Financial Flows and the Right to Development"

HRC subsidiary body Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development

Deadline: 16 November 2026

Purpose

The Expert Mechanism invites input from diverse stakeholders, including States, international and regional organizations, civil society, academia, and others, to inform this study.

Background

...The Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development (EMRTD) was established by the Human Rights Council in 2019 and began functioning in 2020. Its mandate is to provide the Council with thematic expertise on the right to development in searching for, identifying, and sharing best practices with Member States, and to promote the implementation of the right to development worldwide.

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This thematic study focuses on “Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) and the Right to Development. By IFFs, we mean the “movement of illegally [or amorally] acquired, transferred or spent funds across borders” [1.1], namely money that is illegally earned, transferred or utilised. These funds typically originate from three sources: Commercial tax evasion, trade misinvoicing and abusive transfer pricing; criminal activities, including the drug trade, human trafficking, illegal arms dealing, and smuggling of contraband; and bribery and theft by corrupt government officials. [1.2]

Call for input from the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity on the human rights situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and other gender-diverse (LGBT) persons deprived of liberty

Special Procedures Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity **Deadline: 30 November 2026**

Purpose

To inform report of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity to the 65th Session of the Human Rights Council

Background

International human rights law requires that all persons deprived of liberty be treated with humanity and respect for their inherent dignity, without discrimination. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights prohibits torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The Convention against Torture further requires States to prevent torture and other ill-treatment in all places where persons are deprived of liberty. These obligations encompass protection from violence, sexual abuse and humiliating or degrading treatment based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Complementary standards include the Nelson Mandela Rules, the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), and standards applicable to immigration detention, psychiatric institutions, social care facilities and other custodial settings. The Yogyakarta Principles and subsequent updates clarify the application of existing international human rights law in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity, including the rights to dignity, non-discrimination, healthcare and freedom from arbitrary detention.

The report will examine whether and how sexual orientation and gender identity shape the experiences of persons deprived of liberty across criminal justice institutions and other public or private custodial settings. It will consider different stages of deprivation of liberty, relevant institutional practices and decision-making processes, access to services, and the availability and effectiveness of safeguards, complaints procedures and independent oversight.

Data remain limited, fragmented and uneven across regions. Efforts to document the experiences of LGBT persons deprived of liberty must respect confidentiality and self-identification and adhere to the principle of ‘do no harm’. The report will analyse these issues in light of States’ negative and positive obligations, including the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment and the principles of dignity, equality and non-discrimination.

NEW - Call for inputs: Human rights and climate adaptation

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights **Deadline: 31 December 2026**

Purpose:

To inform the Secretary-General's analytical study on human rights and climate adaptation to be presented at the sixty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council in September 2027.

Background

The Human Rights Council, in its resolution 62/14 adopted on 6 July 2026 entitled "Human rights and climate change" (para. 24), requested the Secretary-General to consult Member States and other relevant stakeholders in order to prepare and submit to its sixty-sixth session an analytical study on

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human rights and climate adaptation: challenges, good practices, and recommendations on actionable pathways to safeguard the enjoyment of human rights of the present generation and the needs and interests of future generations.

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Emerging/Disruptive Technologies

:: Call for Public Consultation

NEW - Call for comments - Draft recommended guidelines for applying the existing human rights framework to neurotechnologies

UN OHCHR – Issued by Advisory Committee **Deadline: 30 November 2026**

Background

Pursuant to Human Rights Council [resolution 58/6](#) entitled “Neurotechnology and human rights”, the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee is drafting a set of recommended guidelines for applying the existing human rights framework to the conception, design, development, testing, use and deployment of neurotechnologies, to be presented to the Council at its sixty-fourth session (22 February-2 April 2027).

Objectives

The Advisory Committee invites States, international organizations, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, human rights mechanisms and other relevant stakeholders to submit written comments on the draft text entitled “Recommended guidelines for applying the existing human rights framework to neurotechnologies”. The comments received will assist the drafting group and the Advisory Committee in finalizing the recommended guidelines prior to their submission to the Human Rights Council.

Key questions and types of input/comments sought

Interested stakeholders are invited to submit concise and focused written comments in English or French, in a separate document not exceeding 1,500 words. Comments should not take the form of tracked changes, inline edits or comments inserted directly into the draft text.

Unless marked as confidential, comments will be published on the website of the Advisory Committee. To facilitate the timely finalization of the guidelines, the deadline will be strictly applied and no extensions will be granted.

Draft recommended guidelines for applying the existing human rights framework to neurotechnologies

:: Resources, Events

No new resources, events identified.

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Biodiversity/Environment/Climate/Disaster Mitigation

:: Call for Public Consultation

:: Resources, Events

No new resources, events identified.

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Science Integrity/Evidence to Policy/ Open Science

:: Calls for Public Consultation

:: Resources, Events

No new resources, events identified.

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Heritage/Cultural Assets

:: Call for Public Consultation

NEW - Call for Input - Digital Heritage

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights **Deadline: 20 November 2026**

Purpose:

To inform OHCHR's fourth intersessional workshop on cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage, to be held on 8 December 2026, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 58/4.

Background

In resolution 58/4, Cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage, the Human Rights Council requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in consultation with UNESCO and the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, to develop and promote tools supporting an approach to digital heritage – including the digitalization of cultural heritage – that respects cultural rights. The Council also requested OHCHR to convene a one-day workshop before its sixty-fourth session to review the tools, good practices, possible methods and implementation challenges.

The call draws on, among others, the report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Digitalization of cultural heritage: preserving cultural rights (A/HRC/58/60). The report stresses that digitalization is not merely technical: it raises questions about who decides which heritage is selected for digitalization, how it is represented, who can access and use it, and who benefits. A cultural rights approach requires the recognition and meaningful participation of source and guardian communities; non-discrimination; respect for cultural diversity; equitable benefits; and accountability and review of decisions.

:: Resources, Events

No new resources, events identified.

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Governance, Peace, Trade, Global Finance

:: Call for Public Consultation

NEW - Public consultation on the “Guidance on understanding, compiling, organizing and managing metadata” (2026)

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Statistics

28 September 2026 **Questionnaire response due 01 November 2026**

Overview

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Given the growing need for guidance on metadata and thus accountability to users for all official statistics productions, the United Nations Statistics Division, under the Data for Now initiative in collaboration with the Collaborative on Administrative Data, has developed a practical guide to understand, compile, organize and manage metadata.

A first draft has been developed through a consultative process involving more than 15 countries and a range of international experts, and has been refined through two rounds of review and feedback.

The United Nations Statistics Division is holding this open consultation to seek input from a wide range of stakeholders from the statistical community, including metadata experts, data producers, providers, and users of official statistics. Participants are invited to provide comments on each of the document's sections or submit overall observations and recommendations.

A draft version is available at the link below: [Guidance on metadata \(Draft, July 2026\)](#) The community is requested to share their inputs through the following questionnaire by Sunday, 1 November 2026: [Public Consultation: Guidance on metadata \(2026\) - Fill out form](#)

NEW - Consultation on the digital provision of law: Towards a shared reference framework for Law as Code

OECD - Public consultation: **Submission period 29 Jul 2026 - 30 Apr 2027**

Purpose of the consultation

Law as Code raises legal, institutional, organisational, and technical questions that cannot be resolved through isolated projects alone. These include how machine-executable legal logic should be modelled, legally reviewed, authorised, versioned, maintained, provided, and governed, and which institutions should be responsible for each of these functions.

The OECD consultation therefore seeks to establish a shared understanding of Law as Code and to develop an international reference framework, defining common principles, structures, and requirements for its implementation as public digital infrastructure. The objective is not to prescribe a single technical system or institutional model, but to provide a common foundation for trustworthy and interoperable approaches, consistent with each jurisdiction's constitutional and legal framework.

The OECD's 2020 publication [Cracking the Code: Rulemaking for Humans and Machines](#) marked an important step in exploring the potential of Rules as Code. Since then, initiatives in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands and New Zealand have explored different approaches to machine-readable and machine-executable rules. This consultation builds on that work by examining Law as Code more specifically as public digital infrastructure.

What is Law as Code?

For the purposes of this consultation, Law as Code refines the broader practice of Rules as Code in order to increase precision and clarity. It refers to the state-authorised provision of authoritative law in force, transformed into machine-executable representations and made available as shared public digital infrastructure. It goes beyond merely machine-readable formats: it implies the translation of law into encoded logic that a system can execute, an approach also known as computational law. These representations remain explicitly linked to the legal texts from which they derive.

Consultation on the digital provision of law: Towards a shared reference framework for law as code

This OECD consultation seeks input on developing a shared international reference framework for Law as Code—the transformation of enacted laws into machine-executable formats.

Public consultation: 29 Jul 2026 - 1 May 2027

Law as Code raises legal, institutional, organisational, and technical questions that cannot be resolved through isolated projects alone. These include how machine-executable legal logic should be modelled,

legally reviewed, authorised, versioned, maintained, provided, and governed, and which institutions should be responsible for each of these functions.

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The consultation is structured in three phases:

Phase 1: Mapping the current landscape — July to mid-October 2026:

A survey will map existing Law as Code initiatives. It includes a general section, “Digital law in your context”, requiring only a high-level understanding of how law is provided digitally in the relevant jurisdiction, and a specialist section, “Existing Law as Code initiatives”, requesting technical details about existing initiatives. Respondents may complete only the sections relevant to their knowledge.

Phase 2: Developing principles and requirements — mid-September to mid-November 2026:

A second survey will gather perspectives on the principles, requirements and technical architecture that should inform the reference framework. Contributions are invited from participants with policy, legal, technical and other relevant expertise.

Phase 3: Developing the reference framework — November 2026 to the end of April 2027:

This phase will bring together experts from across the international Law as Code community in a collaborative online process to exchange perspectives and jointly work on the development of a shared reference framework.

A final publication, bringing together the results of all three phases together with the draft reference framework, is expected in late 2027 or early 2028. The project is funded by SPRIND, the German Federal Agency for Breakthrough Innovation.

:: Resources, Events

No new resources, events identified.

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Selected Final, Published Guidances, Frameworks, Regulations, Meetings Employing Calls for Public Consultation

Evaluation of Therapeutic Equivalence; Guidance for Industry; Availability

A Notice by the Food and Drug Administration on 08/24/2026

SUMMARY

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) is announcing the availability of a **final guidance** for industry titled “Evaluation of Therapeutic Equivalence.” This guidance explains FDA's thinking on therapeutic equivalence evaluations and therapeutic equivalence codes (TE codes). FDA's therapeutic equivalence evaluations are listed for multisource prescription drug products approved under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) in the active section of the “Approved Drug Products With Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations” (commonly known as the Orange Book). These therapeutic equivalence evaluations have been prepared to serve as public information and advice to state health agencies, prescribers, and pharmacists to promote public education in the area of drug product selection and to foster containment of health care costs. This guidance finalizes the draft guidance of the same title issued in July 2022.

Frequently Asked Questions-Developing Potential Cellular and Gene Therapy Products; Final Guidance for Industry; Availability

A Notice by the Food and Drug Administration on 08/20/2026

SUMMARY

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) is announcing the availability of a **final guidance** titled “Frequently asked Questions—Developing Potential Cellular and Gene Therapy Products.” The guidance document provides industry with answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) and commonly faced issues that arise during the development of cellular and gene therapy (CGT) products. The FAQs represent common questions directed to the Agency and span multiple disciplines, including regulatory review; chemistry, manufacturing, and controls (CMC); pharmacology/toxicology; clinical; and clinical pharmacology. This guidance announced in this notice finalizes the draft guidance of the same title issued on November 19, 2024.

Guidance: <https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/guidance-compliance-regulatory-information-biologics/biologics-guidances>, <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents>, or <https://www.regulations.gov>.

M15 General Principles for Model-Informed Drug Development; International Council for Harmonisation; Guidance for Industry; Availability

A Notice by the Food and Drug Administration on 06/03/2026 **Final Guidance**

SUMMARY:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) is announcing the availability of a final guidance for industry entitled “M15 General Principles for Model-Informed Drug Development.” The guidance was prepared under the auspices of the International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH). The guidance provides general recommendations for the planning, model evaluation, and documentation of evidence derived from model-informed drug development (MIDD). It establishes a harmonized assessment framework (including the associated terminology) for the MIDD evidence. It also provides recommendations for related regulatory interactions, reporting, and submission. This guideline is intended to facilitate a multidisciplinary understanding of MIDD and associated evidence generation. The guidance finalizes the draft guidance of the same title issued on December 30, 2024.

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Selected Peer-reviewed Journal Literature/Gray Lit Integrating Public Consultation

Public Integrity Indicators

OECD, Ongoing

Following the adoption of the OECD Council Recommendation on Public Integrity in 2017, the Public Governance Committee (PGC), via its Working Party of Senior Public Integrity Officials (SPIO) subsidiary body, developed the OECD Public Integrity Indicators (PII) to measure the implementation of the OECD Council Recommendation on Public Integrity. The PII are complementary to the OECD Public Integrity Handbook and the OECD Public Integrity Maturity Models.

The OECD Public Integrity Indicators (PII) measure the quality and effectiveness of public integrity systems across six areas:

- Quality of Strategic Framework (data available)

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- Accountability of Public Policymaking – covering conflict-of-interest, political finance, lobbying, public information, open government, and public consultation (data available)
- Effectiveness of Internal Control and Risk Management (data available)
- Integrity and Effectiveness of the Justice System (data available)
- Strength of External Oversight and Control (to be launched in 2026)
- Meritocracy of the Public Sector (to be launched in 2026)

The OECD Public Integrity Indicators provide cross-country comparative data to help policy makers and practitioners strengthen the resilience of public integrity systems towards corruption risks and prevent the mismanagement and waste of public funds. The PIIs measure the strength of standard regulatory safeguards (de jure) and implementation of these safeguards in practice (de facto). The OECD Secretariat collaborates closely with national administrations to obtain primary data collected directly from a wide range of actors across the executive, legislative and judiciary branches.

Data is collected for all 38 OECD member states (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, and the United States), four adherents to the OECD Recommendation on Public Integrity (Argentina, Kazakhstan, Morocco and Peru), and two OECD key partners (Brazil and Indonesia).

WHO global technical consultation on public health and social measures during health emergencies: report of the third meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 24-26 March 2026

27 August 2026 | [Report](#) [Download \(745.4 kB\)](#)

Overview

This report summarizes the third WHO global technical consultation on public health and social measures (PHSM) during health emergencies, held from 24 to 26 March 2026 and bringing together 133 experts from 31 Member States, representing ministries of health, national public health institutes, academia, civil society and international organizations. The consultation reviewed progress and lessons learned and sought to advance the integration of PHSM evidence and guidance into national preparedness and response.

Discussions focused on equitable, context-specific implementation, including the selection and adaptation of PHSM based on effectiveness, feasibility, public acceptance and adverse health and socioeconomic impacts. Experts reviewed operational guidance for the PHSM Decision Navigator, an epidemic and pandemic influenza module, and community-centred approaches.

In support of World Health Assembly resolution WHA78.3, participants also addressed strengthening the evidence base through master protocols for evaluating PHSM effectiveness, monitoring unintended consequences, and the AI-powered PHSM Knowledge Hub. The consultation emphasized connecting experience, evidence, action and investment to strengthen PHSM research, decision-making and implementation for epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response.

No Further Comment: The Erosion of Public Comment in the EU and US

Authored by: Steven J. Balla, Adriana Bunea

Commentaries & Insights, GW Regulatory Studies Center, George Washington University, Washington, DC

February 19, 2026

[Download this commentary](#)

In brief...

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While the public comment process may be in need of sensible reform, some current efforts arguably go beyond constructive changes and threaten to fundamentally alter longstanding practices which support good governance.

Governments on both sides of the Atlantic have recently taken steps to limit opportunities for public comment during the policymaking process. Examples include the European Commission's expedited procedures for developing legislative proposals and the Trump administration's use of the Administrative Procedure Act's (APA) "good cause" exception for rescinding regulations. To be sure, the public comment process is time and resource intensive, and at times may exhibit little benefit for participants and government officials. Public comment nevertheless remains a fundamental principle of good governance, facilitating the provision of information and the expression of preferences and, by extension, potentially enhancing procedural transparency, the quality of policy, and democratic legitimacy.

In addition, public comment, along with other procedures such as regulatory impact analysis, can reduce policy instability and uncertainty and thereby facilitate investment, innovation, and economic growth, constituting fundamental procedural safeguards in regulatory policymaking. While the public comment process may be in need of sensible reform, some current efforts arguably go beyond constructive changes and threaten to fundamentally alter longstanding practices with well-established benefits...

Conclusion

In sum, this accounting and assessment of the erosion of public comment in the EU and US suggests a number of takeaway lessons. First, it is important to acknowledge that public comment as it is currently constituted in either the EU or US is not sacrosanct. The public comment process is in need of reform to respond to legal and political developments, as well as technical advances. Second, necessary reforms ought to be made with an eye toward preserving and extending the demonstrated benefits of public comment, rather than as a means to serve short-term political agendas. Although economic competitiveness is a valid goal of governments on both sides of the Atlantic, dramatic rollbacks of public comment processes may have the unintended consequence of dampening incentives for long-term investments and other drivers of growth. In the end, authorities in both the EU and US are best to avoid a rapid "race to the bottom" in public comment that research on both sides of the Atlantic suggests has the potential—if carried to the extreme—to harm policymaking and democracy.

OECD Guidelines for Citizen Participation Processes

Paris: OECD Publishing. 2022

https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/governance/oecd-guidelines-for-citizen-participation-processes_f765caf6-en [Accessed 10 Nov 2023]

The *OECD Guidelines for Citizen Participation Processes* are intended for any public official or public institution interested in carrying out a citizen participation process. The guidelines describe ten steps for designing, planning, implementing and evaluating a citizen participation process, and discuss eight different methods for involving citizens: information and data, open meetings, public consultations, open innovation, citizen science, civic monitoring, participatory budgeting and representative deliberative processes. The guidelines are illustrated with examples as well as practical guidance built on evidence gathered by the OECD. Finally, nine guiding principles are presented to help ensure the quality of these processes.

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Selected Resources for Public Consultation Notices, Calls, Processes

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UNHCHR UN High Commissioner for Human Rights – Calls for Input

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input-listing>

UNESCO - Consultations

https://www.unesco.org/en/search?category=UNESCO&text=consultation&category=UNESCO&sort_by=unesco_date#toggle-facets

WHO – Public Consultations

<https://www.who.int/home/search?indexCatalogue=genericsearchindex1&searchQuery=public%20consultation&wordsMode=AnyWord>

OECD - Consultations and calls for contributions

<https://www.oecd.org/about/civil-society/consultations-and-calls-for-contributions.htm>

IFAD Public Consultations

<https://webapps.ifad.org/members/executive-board-public-consultation>

European Medicines Agency's (EMA) open public consultations

<https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news-events/open-consultations>

U.S. Federal Register – “Public Comment” or RFI

https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/search?conditions%5Bpublication_date%5D%5Bgte%5D=09%2F13%2F2023&conditions%5Bterm%5D=%22public+comment%22+or+RFI#

U.S. HHS – Open Requests for Comments

<https://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/regulations-and-policy/requests-for-comments/index.html>

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