Regional Professional Committees

Expression of Interest

Purpose

The purpose of the Committees is to support ICM to strengthen the midwifery profession regionally and globally and in alignment with the ICM Professional Framework. As operational committees, the Regional Professional Committees will help to build positive working relationships and networks between midwife educators, midwife regulators, midwife researchers, emerging leaders and Midwives Associations (MAs) within regions. The Regional Professional Committees will help communicate and implement ICM’s work plans for strengthening midwifery education, regulation, research, and practice across and between ICM’s six regions. The Committees report to the Chief Executive.

The Terms of Reference is attached. Please read to ensure that you are aware of the scope of work, roles and responsibilities, term of appointment, procedures and resources. Participation is voluntary.

Membership

Each Regional Professional Committee is comprised of 10 members:

- Two midwife educators, two midwife regulators, two midwife researchers, and two practising midwives, and one emerging midwife leader, ensuring regional diversity.
- A maximum of one midwife from any one country can be appointed to the Committee.
- One member of the Head Office Regional Team will join each committee as a full member, bringing the total to ten.

Membership eligibility

Each member of each Regional Professional Committee must:

- Be a midwife who is a member of an ICM Member Association.
- Be a midwife educator, midwife regulator, midwife researcher, midwife practitioner, or emerging midwife leader with relevant and proven expertise in their field
- Be able to communicate effectively in the ICM language dominant in the region (French, Spanish, or English), and where there is more than one dominant ICM language (e.g. French and English or Spanish and English), at least 1/3 of members are also able to speak and read English.
- Have access to the internet and be able to communicate electronically.
- Prepare for and attend meetings regularly.
- Commit to actively participate in the work of the Committee.

If you are interested in becoming a member of one of ICM’s six Regional Professional Committees (Africa, Americas, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, South East Asia, Western Pacific), then please complete the form below, stating your interest and send to h.kirkpatrick@internationalmidwives.org by Friday 18 March. You will receive a response by Mid-April.
Details

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Email address</td>
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<td>Phone number</td>
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<td>Name of your Midwives’ Association</td>
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<td>Languages (at a proficient level for meetings)</td>
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<td>List your specialty eg. Midwife educator, emerging leader, practising midwife</td>
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<td>Name of region</td>
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Statement of Expression of Interest

1. Describe your midwifery experience and how you meet the eligibility criteria as set out in the Terms of Reference.

2. What are the priorities in your region in terms of education, regulation, research and practice?

3. Describe your network, including with your midwives’ association

4. How would you utilise your network to assist ICM to strengthen the midwifery profession in your region?

5. How do you think ICM can assist in improving the state of midwifery in your region?

6. Why do you want to be a member of the Regional Professional Committee? What attributes will you bring? What contribution can you make?

References

1. Provide a statement of support from the President of your Midwives' Association
2. Provide a statement of support from a professional colleague

Curriculum Vitae

Attach a concise summary of your CV, highlighting the experience and knowledge that is relevant to membership of a regional professional committee
TERMS OF REFERENCE
REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEES

PURPOSE
The purpose of the Committees is to support ICM to strengthen the midwifery profession regionally and globally and in alignment with the ICM Professional Framework. As operational committees, the Regional Professional Committees will help to build positive working relationships and networks between midwife educators, midwife regulators, midwifery researchers, emerging leaders and Midwives Associations (MAs) within regions. The Regional Professional Committees will help communicate and implement ICM’s work plans for strengthening midwifery education, regulation, research, and practice across and between ICM’s six regions.

SCOPE OF WORK
The committees are operational, reporting to the Chief Executive.

The Committees will fulfil their purpose by:

- Meeting at least quarterly to develop shared understanding of the position of midwifery education, regulation, research, and practice in the region, including strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.
- Providing advice to Head Office Regional Teams and through them to Regional Board Members about ways to strengthen midwifery education, regulation, research and practice and how suggested actions can be incorporated into Regional Work Plans, including:
  a. Helping to build regional networks between midwifery educators, regulators, researchers, and Midwives Associations.
  b. Helping MAs to build relationships with midwifery schools and midwife educators.
  c. Creating a list of midwife educators and contacts in the region.
  d. Helping MAs to build relationships with midwifery regulatory authorities and midwife regulators.
  e. Creating a list of midwife regulators and contacts in region.
  f. Helping MAs to build relationships with midwife researchers.
  g. Creating a list of midwife researchers and contacts in region.
  h. Helping MAs to build understanding of ICM’s Midwifery Professional Framework and opportunities for advocacy, capacity-building and strengthening elements of the framework in the region as necessary.
- Acting as a resource of experts for ICM Head Office Regional Teams and through them for Regional Board Members, representing ICM where possible.
- Contributing to process and decisions for selection of ICM Awardees.
- Facilitating specifically targeted workshops at regional events and each Congress.
• Providing advice and helping MAs, educators, regulators, and researchers to engage with health service providers to encourage collaboration in activities to strengthen the midwifery profession

MEMBERSHIP
Each Regional Professional Committee is comprised of 10 members:
• Two midwife educator(s), midwife regulator(s), midwife researcher(s), practising midwife(ves), and one emerging midwife leader, ensuring regional diversity.
• A maximum of one midwife from any one country can be appointed to the Committee.
• One member of the Head Office Regional Team will join each committee as a full member.

Each Committee will elect its own Chair.

The Regional Board member will be invited to attend any meetings as a non-voting member. Additionally, the Regional Board member, the Chair of the Regional Professional Committee and the Head Office Regional Team member will meet at least once per year to discuss how the work of the Regional Professional Committee can be incorporated into the Regional Work Plan.

Whilst the working language of the ICM is English, in regions where French and Spanish are the predominant languages, it is advantageous that at least 1/3 of members also speak and read English.

Committee membership, including the role of the Chair, is voluntary.

Membership eligibility
Each member of each Regional Professional Committee must:
• Be a midwife who is a member of an ICM Member Association.
• Be a midwife educator, midwife regulator, midwife researcher, midwife practitioner, or emerging midwife leader with relevant and proven expertise in their field
• Be able to communicate effectively in the ICM language dominant in the region (French, Spanish or English), and where there is more than one dominant ICM language (eg. French and English or Spanish and English), at least 1/3 of members are also able to speak and read English.
• Have access to the internet and be able to communicate electronically.
• Prepare for and attend meetings regularly.
• Commit to actively participate in the work of the Committee.

Membership term
A membership term is three years with eligibility for appointment for a second term. No more than half the members will complete their term at any one time.
Terms will align with regional meetings with the reappointment process taking place in the first six months of the year.

Half of the inaugural members (appointed in 2022) will serve only a single term and half will be extended to two terms. Those members whose term is extended to six years must have made a useful contribution to the Committee. The Committee will advise the Chief Executive on which members should serve a three-year or six-year term.

Any members may be reappointed to the Committee for a future term, providing that there is at least a period of three years between terms.

Individuals with the requisite expertise may submit an expression of interest for membership. The official representatives of the regional Midwives Associations advise the Chief Executive which nominees should be appointed. The Chief Executive, or delegate, will appoint Committee members, taking account of the recommendations of the region and will oversee the limitation or reappointment of committee member’s terms. Selection will aim to ensure committee membership that reflects the diversity of the region as far as possible.

In any one year, a member who attends less than half the meetings or does not actively contribute to the activities of the Committee will be deemed a non-active member and their term of office will be cancelled by the Chief Executive. Nominees for individual members may be sought from time to time if positions become vacant for any reason.

**Specific roles**

**Chair’s role** is to:
- Convene the Committee and ensure that it maintains its focus on Committee matters.
- Plan the Committee’s work in alignment with ICM’s Strategic Directions and the Regional Work Plan in collaboration with the Head Office Regional Team and the Regional Board Member.
- Guide, coordinate and oversee the Committee’s activities.
- Collaborate with the Head Office Regional Team member on reporting and evaluating the Committee’s work in line with ICM’s Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan.
- Meet with other Regional Professional Committee Chairs from time to time to share information and activities (electronically or face-to-face when opportunities arise).

**Regional Board member’s role** is to:
- Meet at least once per year with the Chair of the Committee and the Head Office Regional Team liaison person to plan regional activities in line with the Regional Work Plan
- Attend committee meetings, when possible, as a non-voting member

**Head Office Regional Team member’s role** is to:
- Liaise between the Committee Chair, the Head Office and the Regional Board Member.
• Inform the Committee about ICM’s plans for education, regulation, leadership, MA strengthening, regional strengthening, and other plans as relevant from time to time.
• Inform the Committee about ICM’s operational and project activities of relevance to the role of the Committee, including about ICM’s plans for the roll out and implementation of its Midwifery Professional Framework.
• Collaborate with the Chair of the Committee on reporting and evaluating the Committee’s work in line with ICM’s Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan.
• Attend and participate in meetings of the Committee.

SPPC membership
The Chief Executive will select three nominees from the six Regional Professional Committees to join the SPPC for one triennium, taking account of the regional distribution of potential SPPC members. SPPC responsibilities are set out in the SPPC Terms of Reference.

PROCEDURES
Each Regional Professional Committee will agree its own meeting procedure. Electronic communication will be used noting that there may be opportunities for face-to-face meetings at times.

Each Regional Professional Committee will appoint their Chair. Members may be nominated and seconded, and the membership will vote to choose the Chair. This process will be managed by the ICM Head Office and can be done electronically or at a face-to-face meeting.

RESOURCES
An allocation will be made in the annual ICM budget to cover costs of interpretation and translation for the Regional Professional Committees in the Americas, Africa, Eastern Mediterranean and Europe as required. Funding will also be allocated (if possible) to contribute to costs of travel and accommodation for Committee members who facilitate workshops at face-to-face regional meetings/conferences.

The Committee will manage its own meeting documentation. The Head Office Regional Team member is not expected to take minutes but will assist with reporting and evaluation (as outlined above). ICM Head Office administrators may provide support for setting up Zoom meetings and other administrative support that may be required from time-to-time, excluding minute taking.

REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR)
• The ToR will be reviewed by each Committee and the Chief Executive every three years
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<tr>
<td>Sally Pairman</td>
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<td>ICM Chief Executive</td>
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