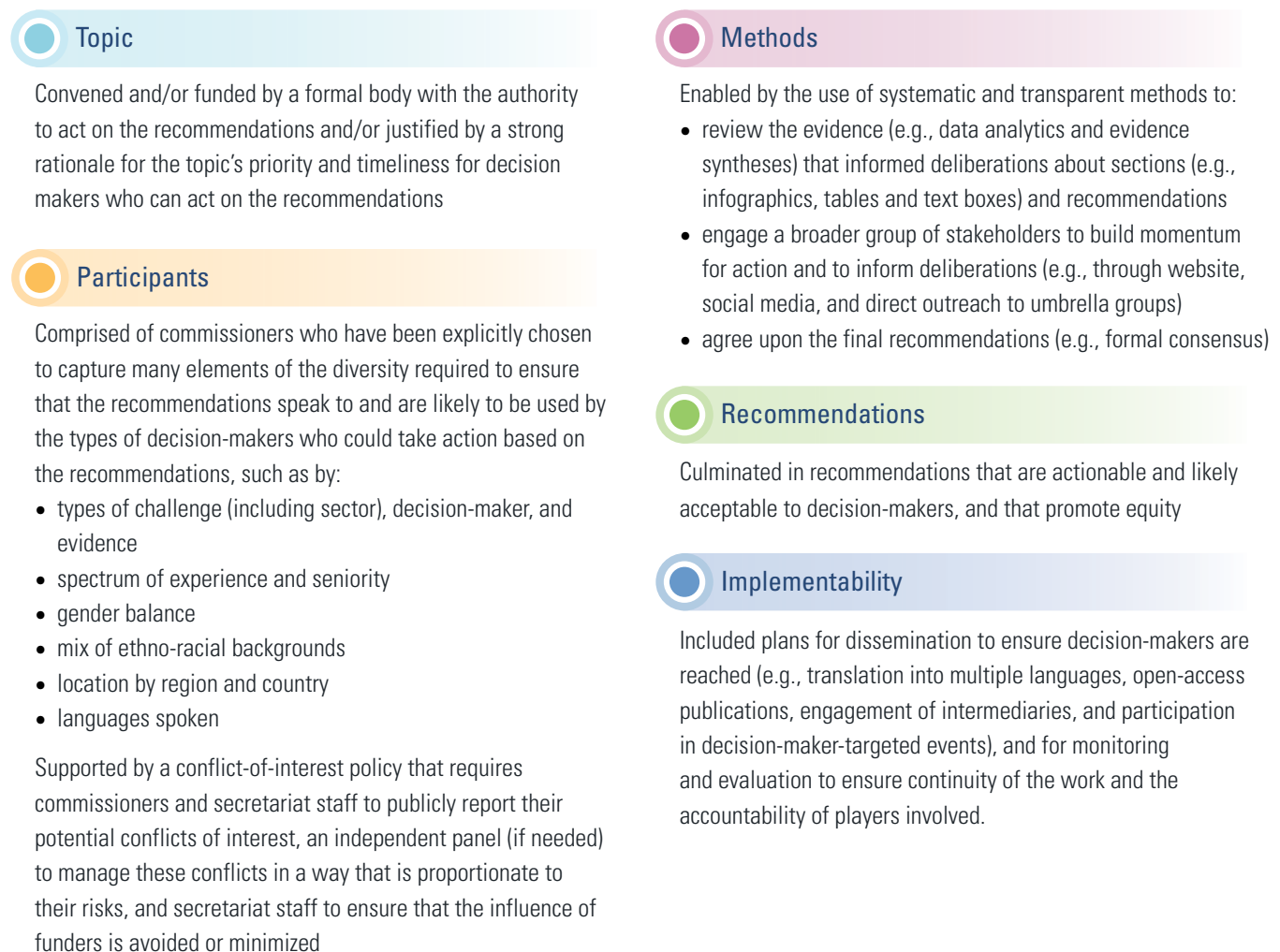


## 1.1 Desirable attributes of commissions

Global commissions are frequently convened to address societal challenges. Yet there is no agreed list of desirable attributes of commissions, let alone tools to support their development, reporting and evaluation.

The convenors of global commissions can likely learn a lot from the health-related field of clinical-practice guidelines, which was in a similar position three decades ago. Since then a steady stream of methodological developments led to a list of desirable attributes of clinical-practice guidelines,<sup>(8)</sup> first- and second-generation tools to support guideline development, reporting and evaluation (AGREE I and II), and complementary tools to assess the quality and implementability of guideline recommendations (AGREE-REX), and to support the development, reporting and evaluation of health-systems guidance (AGREE-HS). For additional details, see the AGREE Enterprise website.

To support its own work and to lay the groundwork for future methodological developments related to global commissions, the Evidence Commission drafted a set of desirable criteria for global commissions, using as prompts the five elements of the AGREE-HS tool (which is closer to the system focus for most global commissions than clinical-practice guideline related tools).



The Evidence Commission adhered to these attributes as diligently as possible and used them to analyze global commissions whose reports were published from 1 January 2016 onwards, or were being drafted. We selected this start date because it coincided with the start of the Sustainable Development Goals era (2016 to 2030). Our assessment of global-commission reports against these attributes found that:

Topic	Participants	Methods	Recommendations	Implementability
<b>65 of 70 reports</b> explicitly addressed one or both parts of the topic attribute, namely that the funder or convenor had the authority to act or that a strong rationale was provided for creating the commission	<b>32 of 70 reports</b> explicitly addressed the first of two participant attributes, namely that commissioners are chosen to capture many elements of diversity  <b>21 of 70 reports</b> explicitly addressed the second of two participant attributes, namely that commissioners and secretariat staff are required to publicly report their potential conflicts of interest and to adhere to other elements of a conflict-of-interest policy as well	<b>5 of 70 reports</b> explicitly addressed the methods attribute, namely that the commission's work was enabled by the use of systematic and transparent methods in each step of the process	<b>50 of 70 reports</b> explicitly addressed the recommendations attribute, namely that the commission's work culminated in recommendations that are actionable and likely acceptable to decision-makers, and that promote equity	<b>36 of 70 reports</b> explicitly addressed the implementability attribute, namely that the commission report included plans for dissemination and for monitoring and evaluation

The same global commissions also formed the basis of our analysis of:

- global-commission reports by challenge type (**section 2.5**)
- global-commission reports by decision-maker type (**section 3.8**)
- global-commission reports by form of evidence (**section 4.15**)

For this section (**1.1**), as well as **sections 2.4, 3.8** and **4.14**, we focused on what was reported (which may be less than what was actually done). We did not conduct interviews or review websites. Similar work could be done for the many regional, national and sub-national commissions, which sometimes go by other names, such as: 1) advisory group; 2) advisory or review committee; 3) assessment or high-level panel; 4) national or royal commission; 5) monitoring board; 6) science academy; or 7) task force. More extensive analyses could be done using some of the methods used in an analysis of global commissions, albeit with a different focus, by Gertz and colleagues.<sup>(9)</sup>

A thematic analysis of recommendations from these global commissions also helped to:

- understand the gap between where we are and where we need to be in using evidence to address societal challenges, at least from the point of view of the high-profile members of global commissions (see **section 7.1**)
- improve the framing of the Evidence Commission's draft recommendations, and identify new ideas for Evidence Commission recommendations, that would help to bridge this gap (see **section 7.2**)
- identify the Evidence Commission's recommendations that align with the recommendations from other global commissions (see the 'aligned reports' column in **section 7.2**).

The methods underpinning these analyses are described in **appendix 8.1**.