

# WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy (2014-2023)

Information Session for Member States  
24 November 2022



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# Outline of the presentation

- **Background Information**
- **A decade progress of Traditional and Complementary Medicine (T&CM)**
- **WHO actions in implementation of the TM Strategy**
- **Challenges facing and Member States requirements**
- **Recommendations and way forward**



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# Background information

- WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014-2023 will expire within one year
- TM resolutions: WHA67.18 (2014) and WHA75(19)(2021) requested the Director-General to submit a consolidated report on progress made in the implementation of TM strategy through EB 152 to WHA 76
- It is also the request made in decision WHA73(15) (2020): in respect of global strategies or action plans that are scheduled to expire within one year, to allow Member States to consider whether global strategies or action plans have fulfilled their mandates, should be extended and/or need to be adjusted.



# WHA Resolution on Traditional Medicine

## WHA67.18 adopted in May 2014 urges Member States :

- To adapt, adopt and implement, where appropriate, the WHO strategy as a basis for national T&CM programmes or work plans
- To develop and implement working plans to integrate T&CM into health services particularly primary health care services
- To report to WHO on progress in implementing the strategy



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# WHA Resolution on Traditional Medicine

WHA67.18 adopted in May 2014 requests the Director-General of WHO:

- To facilitate, upon request, Member States' implementation of the WHO strategy, supporting their formulation of knowledge-based national policies, standards and regulations, and strengthening national capacity building accordingly through information sharing, networks and training workshops;
- To provide policy guidance and technical support to Member States on how to integrate T&CM services into the health care systems while ensuring safety, quality and effectiveness of T&CM services
- To continue to promote international cooperation and collaboration in the area of T&CM in order to share evidence-based information, taking into account the traditions and customs of indigenous peoples and communities.
- To report to WHA periodically, as appropriate, on progress made in implementation



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# Goals: WHO TM Strategy 2014-2023



- **Harnessing the potential contribution of T&CM to health, wellness, people-centered health care and universal health coverage**
- **Promoting safe and effective use of T&CM** through the regulation, research and integration of T&CM products, practices and practitioners into the health system, as appropriate



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# Objectives: WHO TM Strategy 2014-2023



**To build the knowledge base for active management of T&CM through appropriate national policies**

**To strengthen the safety, quality, and efficacy of T&CM by regulating products, practices and practitioners**

**To promote universal health coverage by integrating T&CM services appropriately into health service delivery and self-health care.**

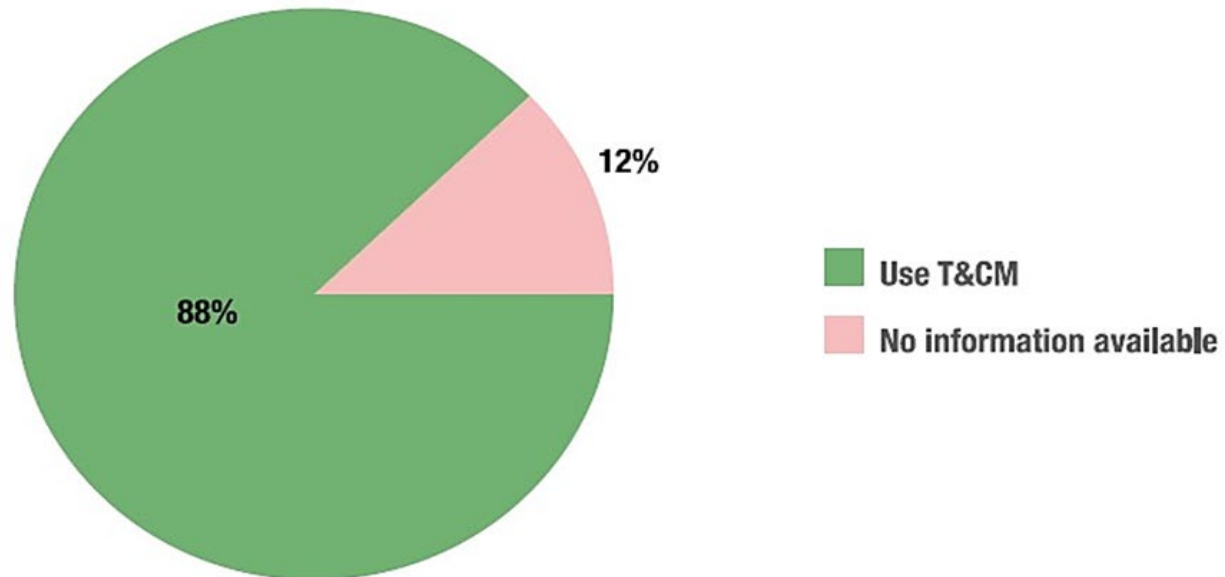


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# Global Situation of T&CM

As at 2018, 170 WHO Member States acknowledged their use of traditional and complementary medicine(T&CM).

Fig. 3.1. Use of T&CM acknowledged by Member States, 2018



T&CM: traditional and complementary medicine (which here includes indigenous traditional medicines). N=194



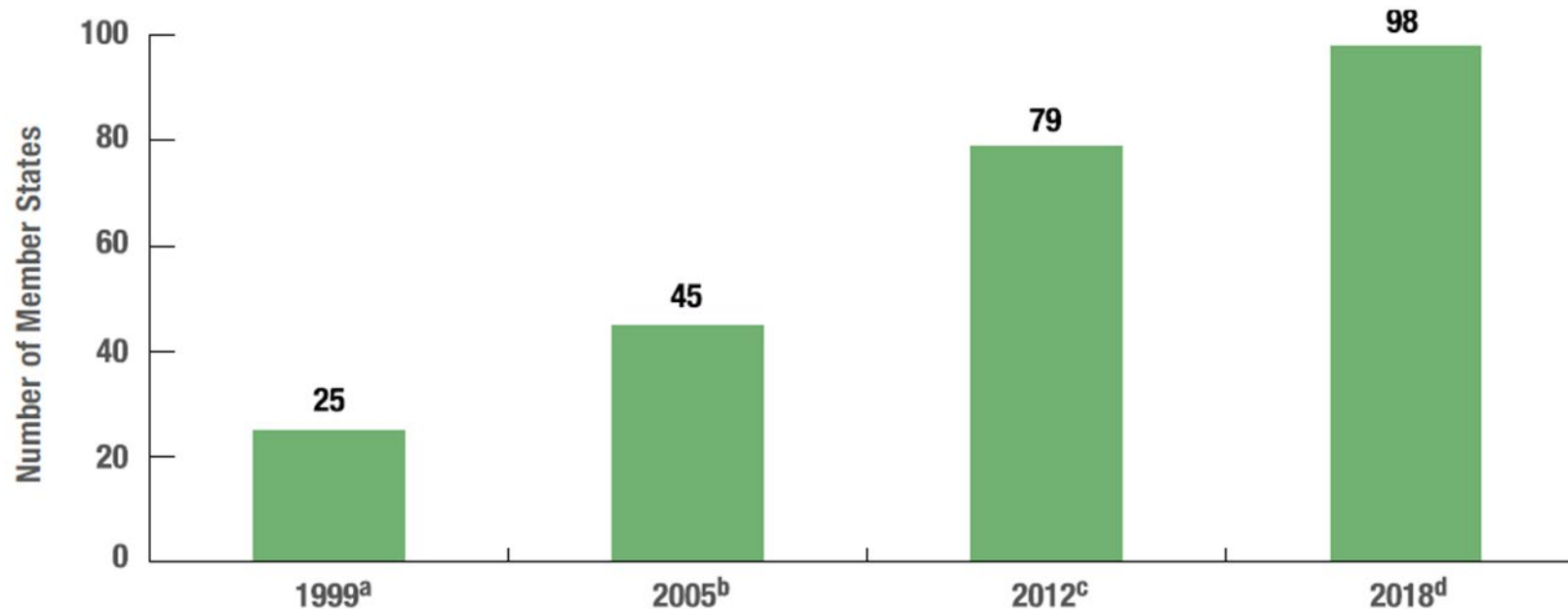
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# National policy for T&CM

There was a consistent increase in the number of WHO Member States having a national policy on T&CM. By 2018, 98 member states, more than 50% of the 194 Member States, had a national policy on T&CM.

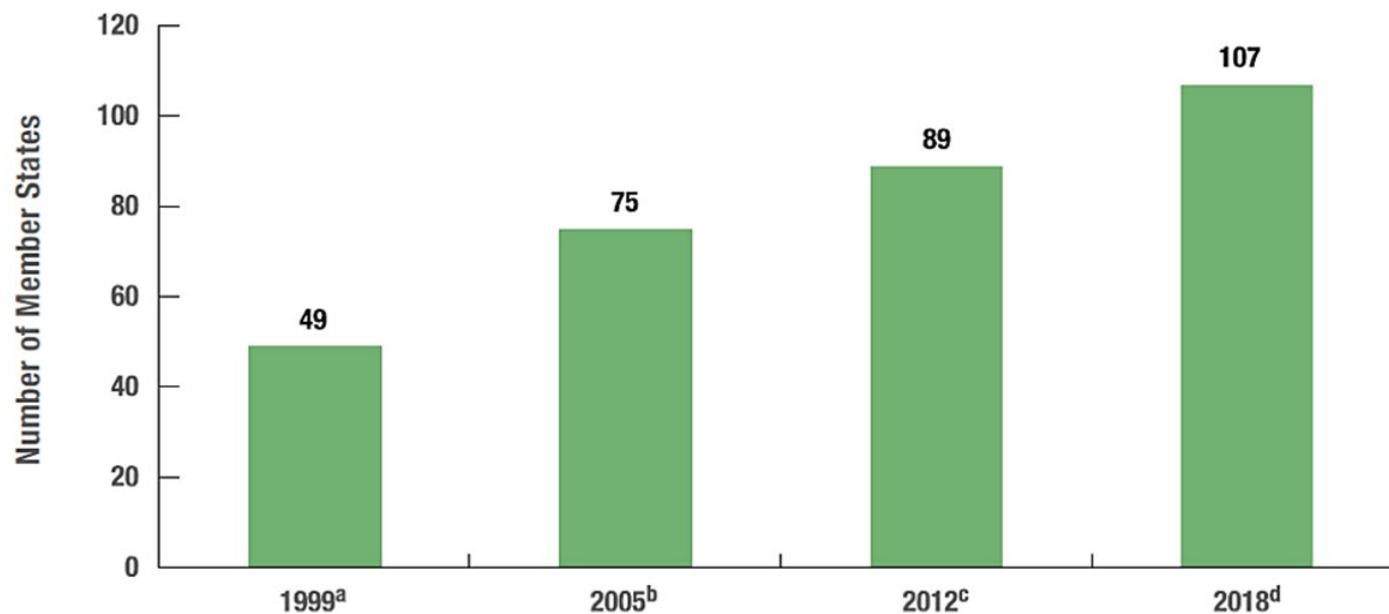
Fig. 1.1. Growth in the number of Member States with a national policy on T&CM, 1999–2018



# National office for T&CM

As of 2018, 107 member states, 55% of all Member States reported the presence of a national office for T&CM.

Fig. 1.11. Growth in the number of Member States with a national office for T&CM, 1999–2018



Sources: As for Fig. 1.1.

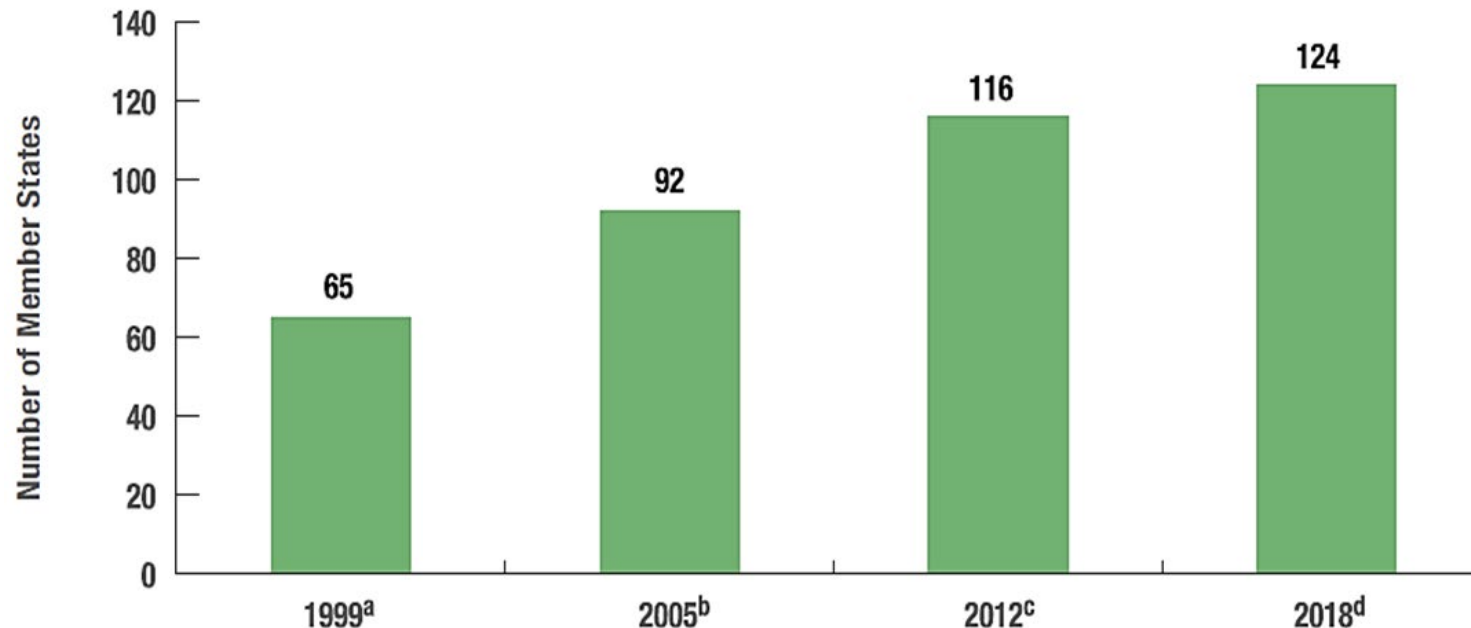


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# Regulation of herbal medicines

As of 2018, 124 Member States(64%)responded presence of laws or regulations for herbal medicines

Fig. 2.1. Growth in the number of Member States with regulation of herbal medicines, 1999-2018

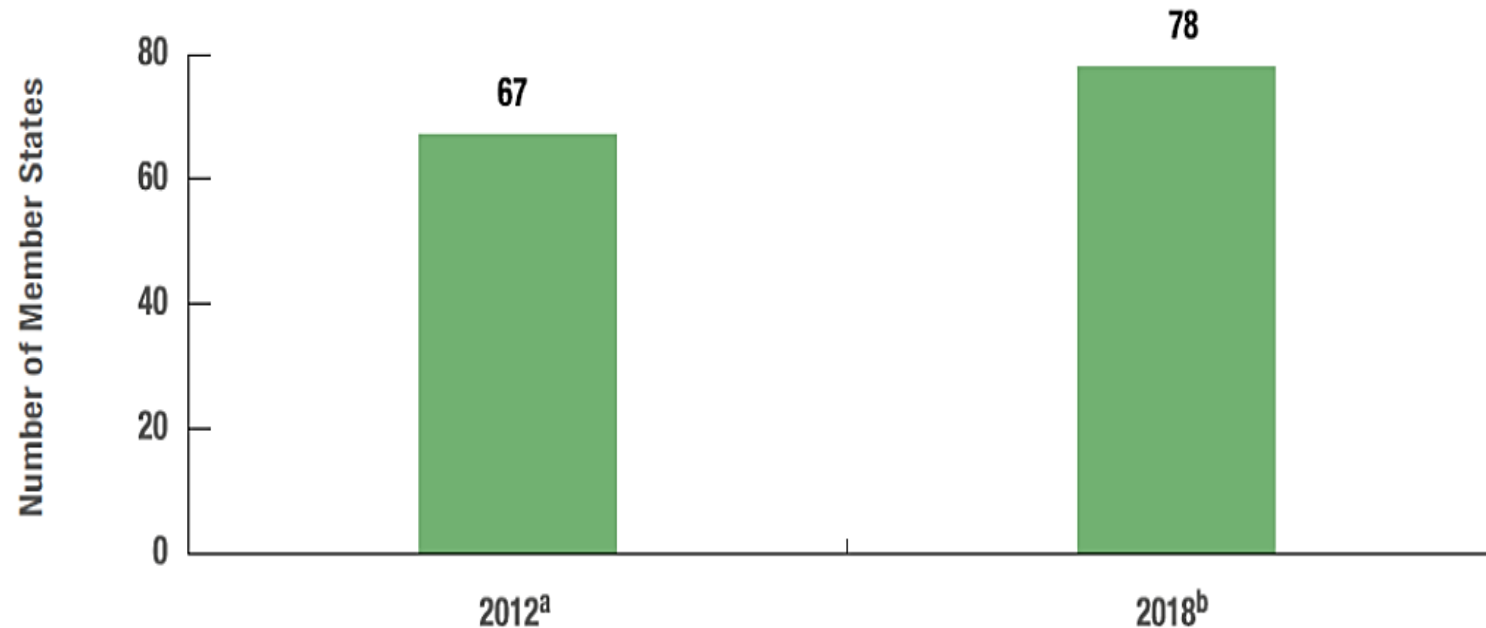


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# Regulation of T&CM practitioners

78 Member States reported regulation of T&CM providers as of 2018, up from 67 in 2012.

Fig. 3.5. Number of Member States with regulation of T&CM providers, 2012–2018



T&CM: traditional and complementary medicine (which here includes indigenous traditional medicines).

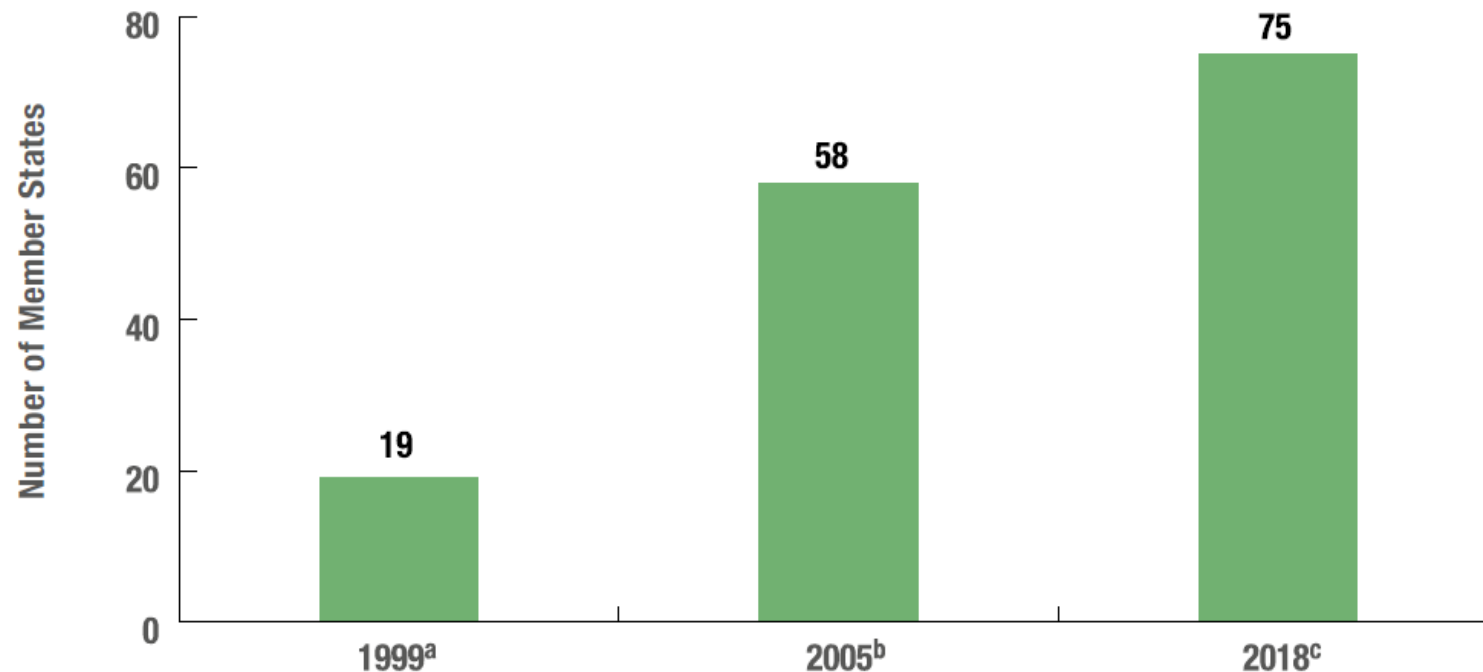


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# National research institute for T&CM

As of 2018, a total of 75 Member States (almost 40%) reported the presence of a national research institute for T&CM

Fig. 1.17. Growth in the number of Member States with a national research institute for T&CM, 1999-2018



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# WHO Actions: On Going Activities

Strengthen global leadership and international network

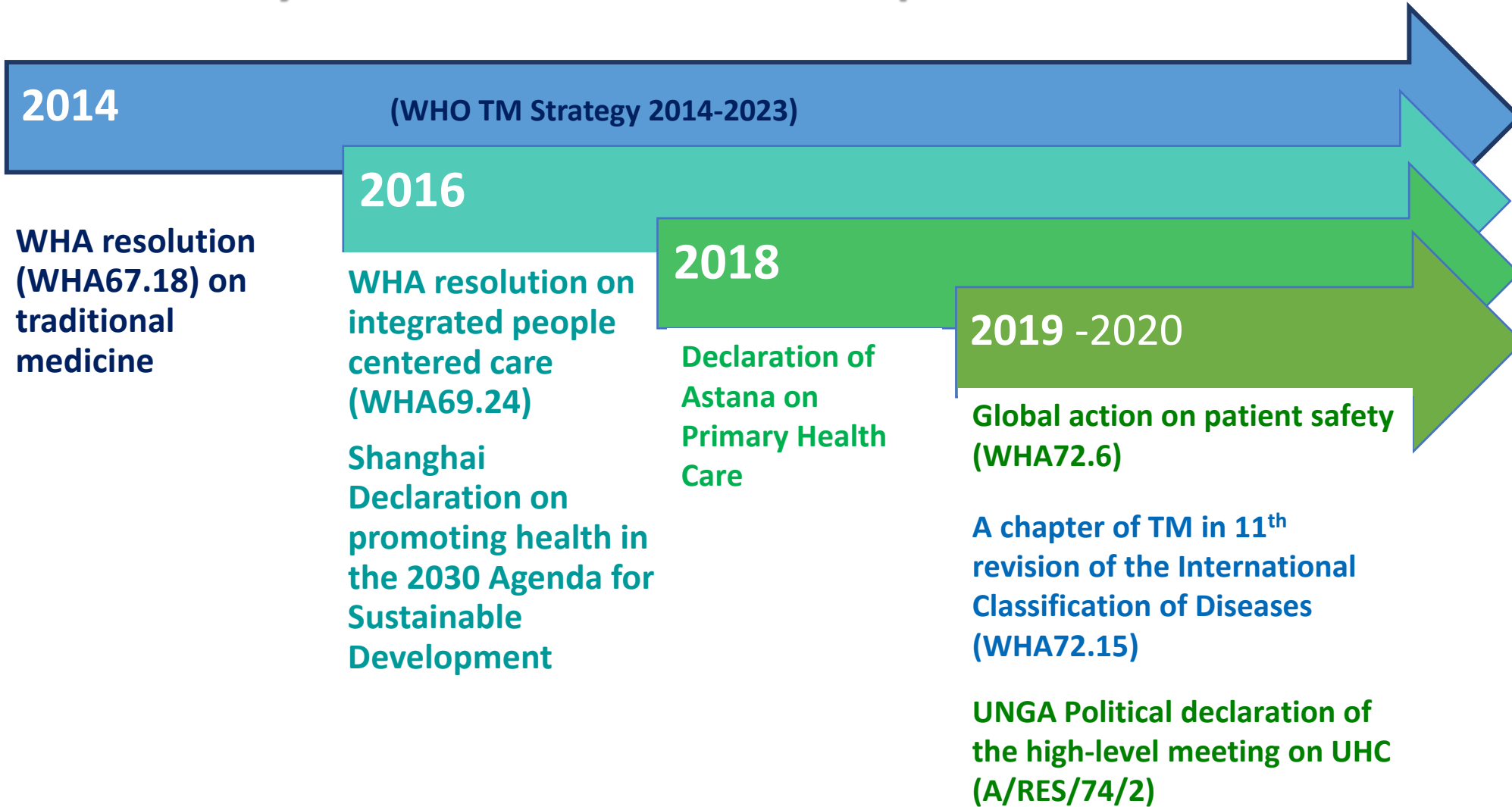
Producing global technical products

Providing policy and technical support to Member States



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# Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCI) in key WHA Resolutions and Important Declarations since 2014

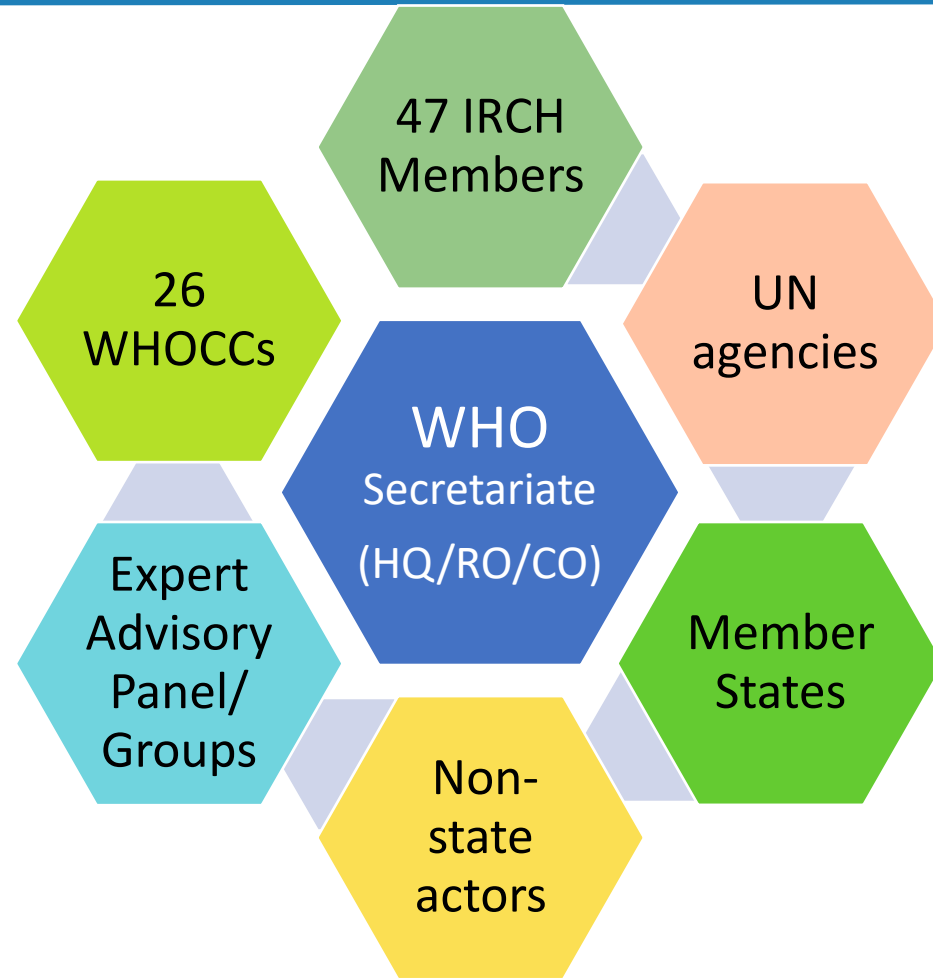


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WHO Operational Framework for PHC

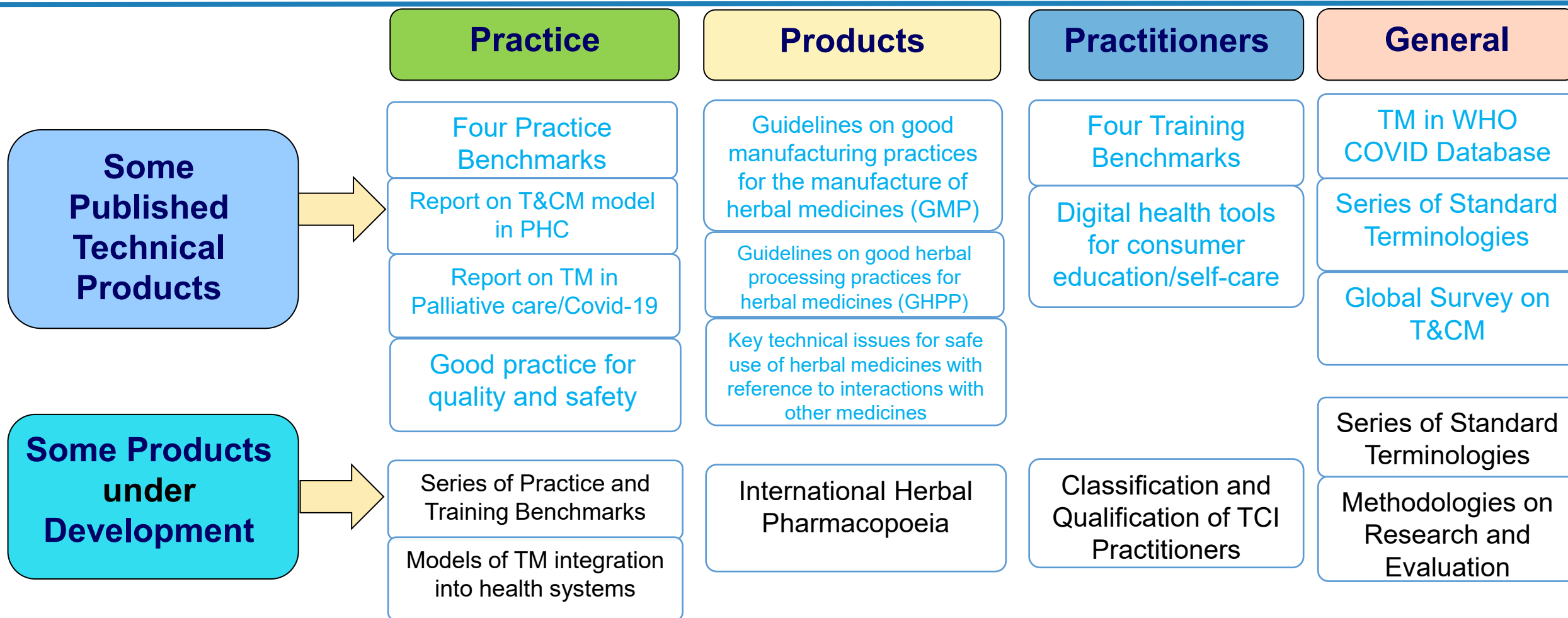
# Strengthen the Global leadership and international network



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# Developing the Global Technical Products



# Developing the Global Technical Products



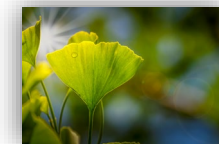
One highly significant achievement is the inclusion of a chapter on traditional medicine in ICD11

Two traditional and complementary medicine indicators were listed in the WHO 2018 Global reference list of 100 core health indicators (plus health-related SDGs)



The first comprehensive WHO global report on traditional and complementary medicine published in the year 2019.

Regional Framework for Harnessing the Traditional and Complementary Medicine for Achieving Health and Well-being in the Western Pacific was approved.



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# Provide Support to Member States



Capacity building- Annual interregional training workshops for governmental officials, series of regional workshops

Onsite technical support on clinical research to AFRO countries who actively engaging TM in against COVID-19



Technical supports Based on requirement of Member States

Priority countries - identified under umbrella of UHC program, Ad hoc



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# Engagement of TM in the fight against COVID-19

**Many countries attempted to use TM against Covid-19, WHO COVID database and WHO International Clinical Trial Registration Platform show (as at 19 September 2022):**

- 4778 traditional medicine-related clinical trials listed in WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform, including 165 trials restricted to COVID-19, in which some are only for traditional medicine, some are combined traditional medicine with conventional.
- 7516 research articles on traditional medicine cited in WHO COVID-19 database of global literature on coronavirus disease.
- Workshops on engagement of TM for fighting against COVID-19 were organized by WHO to share the knowledge and practices of TM among countries and professional organizations
- WHO Expert Meeting on Evaluation of Traditional Chinese Medicine in the Treatment of COVID-19 was held on 28 February-2 March 2022
- WHO AFRO established regional expert committee working in this area



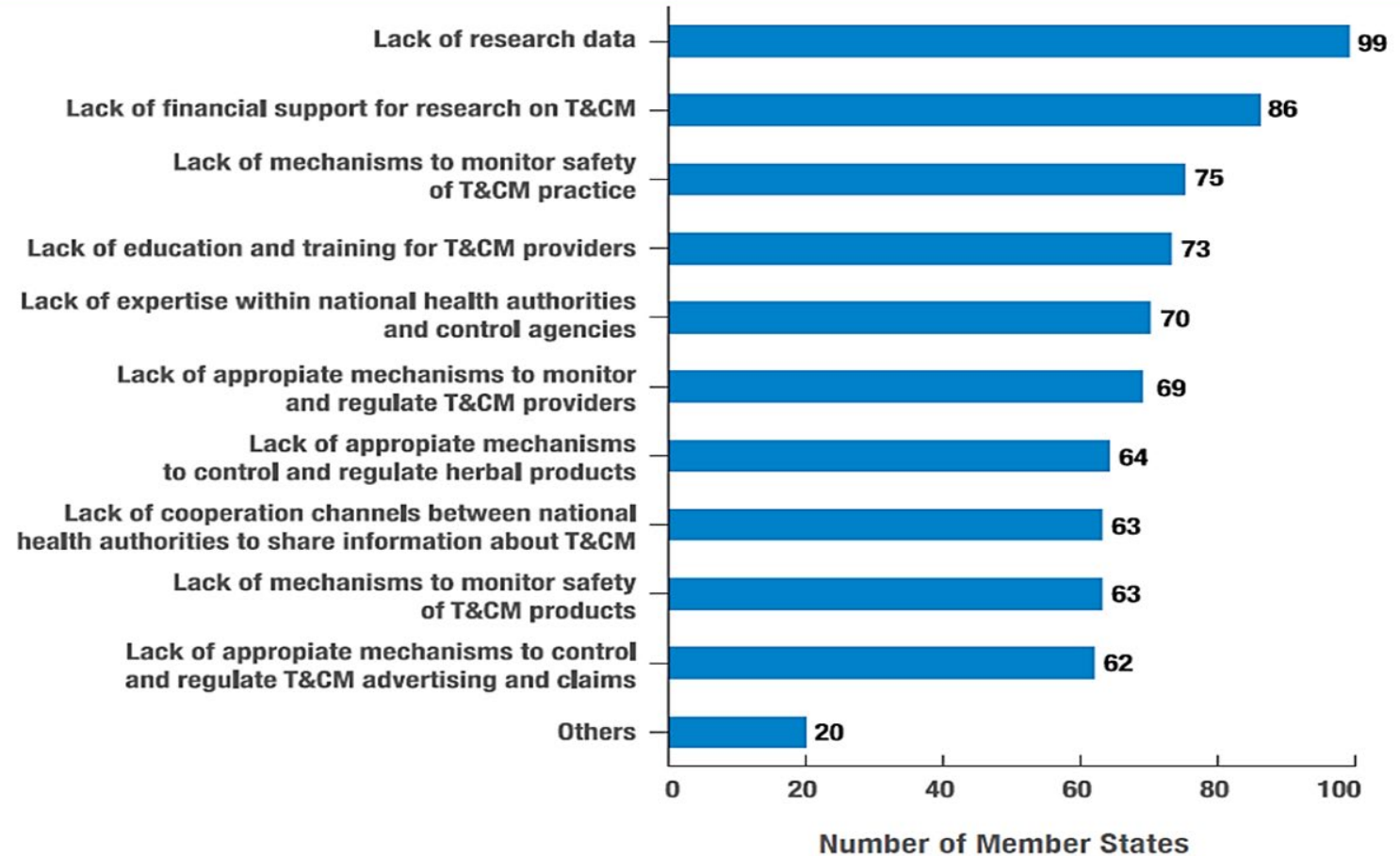
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# Challenges Reported by Member States



179 of the 194 Member States officially contributed the information



Source: Based on the second WHO global survey respondents only (N=133).



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# Challenges Reported by Member States

- Member states have reported that the key challenges they are facing are lack of research data and financial support for research,
- Lack of regulation, control and monitor on the safety, quality and efficacy of traditional and complementary medicine in practice, practitioner and product
- Lack of expertise and cooperation channels and information sharing mechanism
- Lack of policy guidance on integration of traditional medicine into health systems and services



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# Current Situation and needs from Member States

After a decade, the global situation and challenges in traditional and complementary medicine field changed considerably.

The contribution of traditional and complementary medicine to primary health care, universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals continues to gain political recognition.

The expansion of the global landscape of traditional medicine also demonstrates its impact on broader determinants of health, such as interculturalism, nature and even trade.

Consequently, a need is required for comprehensive policy and technical support from Member States to the secretariate for establishing relevant platforms and enhancing cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration for sustainable development.

A growing number of Member States are calling on the Secretariat to provide technical support on integrating T&CM into health systems and services while ensuring the safety, quality and efficacy and to develop a mechanism for sharing information and research data to support countries in generating evidence-based policies and strategic plans.



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# Recommendations and Way Forward



WHO 13<sup>th</sup> General Programme of Work, 2019 – 2024 strategic priorities and goals:



WHO Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCI) Programme current strategy:



Member States are invited to consider the way forward since the strategy is expiring next year



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# Thank you for your attention

Website: <https://www.who.int/teams/integrated-health-services/traditional-complementary-and-integrative-medicine>

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