

Global strategy on traditional medicine

The Executive Board, having considered the report by the Director-General,¹

Decided to recommend to the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly the adoption of the following decision:

The Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report by the Director-General,

Recognizing United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 (2015), entitled Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) and target 3.8 (Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all);

Noting that in United Nations General Assembly resolution 74/2 (2019), entitled Political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage, Heads of State and Government recommitted to achieve universal health coverage by 2030 by, inter alia, exploring ways to integrate, as appropriate, safe and evidence-based traditional and complementary medicine services within national and/or subnational health systems, particularly at the level of primary health care, according to national context and priorities;

Noting also the WHO global report on traditional and complementary medicine 2019,² and progress made in the implementation of the WHO traditional medicine strategy: 2014–2023;

Highlighting the importance of WHO's role in providing technical support for the integration of evidence-based traditional and complementary medicine, as appropriate, into health systems and services by Member States, as well as in supporting measures to regulate traditional and complementary medicine practice, including legal and sustainable resources of traditional and complementary medicine, and for the protection and conservation of traditional and complementary medicine resources, in particular knowledge and natural resources³ according to national laws and regulations;

¹ Document EB152/37.

² WHO global report on traditional and complementary medicine 2019. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2019.

³ All activities will be in compliance with Member State obligations pursuant to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and other international agreements on the protection of endangered species of wild fauna and flora.

Noting the reported use of traditional and complementary medicine during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in several Member States;

Recognizing the efforts of Member States to evaluate through an evidence-based approach, including rigorous clinical trials, as appropriate, the potential of traditional and complementary medicine, including in health system preparedness for and response to health emergencies;

Recognizing also the value and the diversity of the cultures of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and their holistic traditional knowledge,¹

Decided to request the Director-General:

- (1) to extend the WHO traditional medicine strategy: 2014–2023 until 2025;
- (2) to develop, guided by the WHO traditional medicine strategy: 2014–2023 and in consultation with Member States² and relevant stakeholders, a draft new global traditional medicine strategy for the period 2025–2034 and to submit the strategy for consideration by the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly in 2025, through the Executive Board at its 156th session.

Fifteenth meeting, 6 February 2023
EB152/SR/15

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¹ Rights of indigenous peoples. New York: United Nations General Assembly; 2021 (A/C.3/76/L.22/Rev.1; <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N21/321/97/PDF/N2132197.pdf?OpenElement>).

² And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.