

Follow-up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination

The Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on follow-up to the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination – report of the open-ended meeting of Member States;¹

Recalling WHA66.22 (2013) and subsequent Health Assembly decisions on the follow-up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination, and noting progress made in the implementation of the strategic workplan endorsed in resolution WHA66.22;

Acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes the commitment to support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and noncommunicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all;

Recalling the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property and its aims to promote innovation, build capacity, improve access and mobilize resources to address diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries;

Noting with particular concern that for millions of people the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including access to medicines, remains a distant goal, that especially for children and those living in poverty, the likelihood of achieving this goal is becoming increasingly remote;

Noting the establishment of the High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines convened by the United Nations Secretary-General;

Underscoring that health research and development should be needs-driven and evidence-based and be guided by the following core principles: affordability, effectiveness, efficiency, and equity; and that it should be considered a shared responsibility;

¹ Document A69/40.

Acknowledging the central role of the Global Observatory on Health Research and Development to consolidate, monitor and analyze relevant information on health research and development activities related to Type II and Type III diseases and on the specific research and development needs of developing countries in relation to Type I diseases, as well as needs for information on potential areas where market failures exist, and also on antimicrobial resistance and emerging infectious diseases likely to cause major epidemics, building on national and regional observatories (or equivalent functions) and existing data collection mechanisms, with a view to contributing to the identification and the definition of gaps and opportunities for health research and development priorities, and supporting coordinated actions on health research and development;

Expressing concern at the significant gap in funding the strategic workplan endorsed in resolution WHA66.22, including the six selected demonstration projects,

1. URGES Member States:¹

(1) to make concerted efforts, including through adequate and sustainable funding, to fully implement the strategic workplan endorsed in resolution WHA66.22;

(2) to create, operationalize and strengthen, as appropriate, national health research and development observatories, or equivalent functions for tracking and monitoring of relevant information on health research and development, and to provide regular information on relevant health research and development activities to the Global Observatory on Health Research and Development or to other existing data collection mechanisms that provide regular reports to the Global Observatory on Health Research and Development;

(3) to provide support to the Director-General for the development of sustainable financing mechanisms for the full implementation of the strategic workplan endorsed in resolution WHA66.22;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to expedite the full implementation of the strategic workplan endorsed in resolution WHA66.22;

(2) to expedite the further development of a fully functional Global Observatory on Health Research and Development;

(3) to submit terms of reference and a costed workplan of the Global Observatory on Health Research and Development to the Seventieth World Health Assembly, through the Executive Board at its 140th session, under the agenda item on the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination;

(4) to expedite, as part of the development of the Global Observatory on Health Research and Development, the development of norms and standards for classification of health research and development, including common reporting formats, building on existing sources, in consultation with Member State experts and relevant stakeholders in order to collect and collate information systematically;

¹ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

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- (5) to promote the Global Observatory on Health Research and Development among all stakeholders, including through regular open-access publications and outreach activities, and encourage all stakeholders to regularly share relevant information on health research and development with the Global Observatory on Health Research and Development;
- (6) to support Member States in their endeavours to establish or strengthen health research and development capacities, including the monitoring of relevant information on health research and development;
- (7) to establish a WHO Expert Committee on Health Research and Development to provide technical advice on the prioritization of health research and development for Type II and Type III diseases and specific research and development needs of developing countries in relation to Type I diseases, as well as for potential areas where market failure exists based, inter alia, on the analyses provided by the Global Observatory on Health Research and Development, with the Expert Committee consulting, as needed, with all relevant stakeholders in carrying out its work as specified in its terms of reference, which will be formulated and submitted for consideration by the Executive Board at its 140th session;
- (8) to take into account the study conducted by the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases and, on the basis of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination, present a proposal with goals and an operational plan for a voluntary pooled fund to support research and development for Type III and Type II diseases and specific research and development needs of developing countries in relation to Type I diseases, to be submitted to the Seventieth World Health Assembly, through the Executive Board at its 140th session;
- (9) to ensure that the plan describes how the WHO Global Observatory on Health Research and Development, the WHO Expert Committee on Health Research and Development and the Scientific Working Group of a pooled fund will work together, with specific disease examples, and in line with the core principles of affordability, effectiveness, efficiency, equity and the principle of delinkage; and that the plan provides options for sustainable funding;
- (10) to promote and advocate for sustainable and innovative financing for all aspects of the strategic workplan endorsed in resolution WHA66.22 and to include, as appropriate, the strategic workplan in WHO financing dialogues for mobilizing sufficient resources to meet the objectives of resolution WHA66.22;
- (11) to promote policy coherence within WHO on its research and development-related activities, such as those in relation to the Research and Development Blueprint for Emerging Pathogens and the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance in terms of application of the core principles of affordability, effectiveness, efficiency and equity and the objective of delinkage identified in resolution WHA66.22;
- (12) to report to the Seventieth World Health Assembly on the implementation of this resolution, and request the Seventieth World Health Assembly to consider convening another open-ended meeting of Member States in order to assess progress and continue discussions on the remaining issues in relation to monitoring, coordination and financing for health research and development, taking into account relevant analyses and reports.

Eighth plenary meeting, 28 May 2016
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