
Development of a Global Strategy on Donation and Transplantation: Progress and Next Steps

Member States Information Session, Geneva, 21 July 2026

Deusdedit (Deus) MUBANGIZI

Director,
Medicines and Health Products Policies and Standards (HPS) Department
Health Systems, Access and Data (HSD) Division

Efstratios (Stratos) CHATZIXIROS

Advisor on Transplantation

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Key Milestones in 2026
3. Progress to date
4. Considerations for the Global Strategy on Donation and Transplantation
5. Outline of the Strategy
6. Next Steps
7. Request to Member States

Introduction

1. Transplantation of cells, tissues or organs is an established form of treatment for end-stage debilitating conditions mostly caused by Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).
2. There are inequities in access to transplantation services across Member States.
3. The WHA has issued a series of resolutions since 1987, including the adoption of the WHO guiding principles on human cell, tissue and organ transplantation. [Resolution WHA 63.22 \(2010\)](#) updated these [principles](#) and provided directions to Member States for their implementation.
4. Following WHO [report A75/41](#) that highlighted slow progress, Member States agreed on the need for new action, and therefore, the 77th WHA (2024), adopted [resolution 77.4](#).
5. The new resolution calls upon Member States to enhance the availability, ethical access, and oversight of transplantation of human cells, tissues, and organs.
6. Furthermore, it requests the development of a “Global Strategy on the Donation and Transplantation of Human Cells, Tissues and Organs” to be submitted for consideration by the 79th WHA (2026), through the EB158.

Key milestones in 2026

▪ February 2026

1. Secretariat reported ([document EB158/12](#)) on progress for resolutions WHA63.22 and WHA77.4 and invited EB to consider deferring consideration of the global strategy for one year, allowing time for the establishment of the Expert Committee on Donation and Transplantation and the completion of necessary consultations. This was agreed, through [Decision EB158\(5\)](#).

▪ May 2026

1. Established Expert Advisory Panel on Donation and Transplantation with 22 members from all WHO regions.
2. The 79th WHA (2026) decided to defer consideration of the global strategy by one year, and requested the secretariat to continue its development, for submission to the 80th WHA (2027), through the EB160.

1. Development of zero draft by the Secretariat

Literature review, including a series of informal consultations with NSAs in Official Relations and WHO Collaborating Centers.

2. Contributions of WHO Expert Advisory Groups

Donation & Transplantation; Biological Standardization and International Nonproprietary Naming)

3. Version 1 Finalized

Completed 26 June 2026

The Resolution foresees that the Global Strategy is:

1. Outcome-driven, equitable, and capacity-building focused
2. Leveraging existing resources, where feasible
3. Aligned with WHO Guiding Principles on Transplantation
4. Developed and implemented with the support of an Expert Advisory Committee
5. Developed through consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders

Outline of the Strategy: Version 1

1. Introduction

2. Overview of the global situation

3. Vision

4. Objectives

5. Strategic Directions

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Strategy Outline: Introduction and Overview

1. Introduction

Definitions and setting the scope of the strategy; Reference to WHO resolutions on transplantation and other related documents

2. Overview of the global situation

- a) Burden of diseases and socioeconomic value of transplantation
- b) Access and coverage of transplantation
- c) Transplantation integration within models of care
- d) Health system determinants of transplantation
- e) Social determinants of donation and transplantation
- f) International collaboration: insufficiency, public health emergencies and sharing of capability
- g) Innovation and future developments

Strategy Outline continued: Vision and Objectives

3. Vision

By 2035, Member States should have established a national strategy for donation and transplantation within their health systems. Cell, tissue and organ transplantation will be integrated into national health policies and operational models. All patients who qualify for transplantation would be appropriately identified and have equitable access to referral and treatment, with services delivered in timely fashion at national level or, where necessary, through regulated regional or international cooperation.

4. Objectives

The Global Strategy is guided by three key objectives:

- (1) increased availability and improved access to transplantation;
- (2) strengthening of ethical, legislation, policy, and regulatory frameworks governing donation and transplantation; and
- (3) enhanced quality, safety and effectiveness of transplantation outcomes.

Strategy Outline continued: Strategic Directions

5. Strategic Directions

1. Transplantation governance

- National planning
- Legislation and policies
- Oversight
- Financing policies

2. Access to transplantation

- Organisation and Infrastructure
- Integrated service delivery
- National capacity and regional networks
- Professional capacity

3. National donation programmes

- Strengthen living and deceased donation systems
- Build donor identification, coordination and procurement capacity
- Promote Public awareness

4. Cell and Tissue processing

- Sustainable processing and storage capacity
- Regional/shared service models where appropriate
- Skilled and accredited workforce
- Sustainable financing with strong regulatory oversight

5. International access to transplantation

- Strengthen self-sufficiency
- Regional Centres for specialized services
- Global Exchange
- Share expertise, donor products and emergency support mechanisms

6. Investing in technological advancement, research and innovation

- Development of new technologies in transplantation
- Progressive trend in the development of alternative solutions
- Sustainable financing and investment

6. Roles and Responsibilities

- a) Member States
- b) World Health Organization (WHO)
- c) Partners, civil society and private sector

Next Steps and Key Milestones

Activities	Timing	Jul-2026	Aug-2026	Sep-2026	Oct-2026
Information Session / Mission briefing	21-July				
Regional consultations facilitated by WHO Regional Offices	Mid-July to end-August				
Global consultation (available online for public feedback via WHO website)	Mid-July to end-August				
Consolidation/analysis of feedback from consultations	September				
Expert Committee Meeting (ECDT) – 5/6 October	5 or 6 October				
Informal MS Consultation (if needed)	mid-October				
Submit final document to EB160	mid-October				

Request to Member States

- Member States are encouraged to participate in the consultative process and provide feedback on version 1 of the global strategy **from mid July to the end of August 2026**.
- Link for online hosting: [Invitation: Public Review of the Draft Global Strategy on Donation and Transplantation](#)
- Member States to consider designation of national experts that could participate in the regional consultations, as per Regional Office communication.
- Member States encouraged to engage in relevant discussions during the meetings of the WHO regional committees.
- Member States that are planning new or supporting existing regional or global initiatives on transplantation, are invited to inform and collaborate with WHO.

Thank you for your attention

Contact:

Mr Efstratios (Stratos) CHATZIXIROS

Advisor on Transplantation

Email: chatzixirose@who.int



World Health
Organization