

## **Reports of advisory bodies**

### **Advisory Committee on Health Research**

#### **Report by the Secretariat**

1. This document provides a summary of the outcome of the fifty-third meeting of the Advisory Committee on Health Research (ACHR) (Geneva, 3–5 May 2010).
2. ACHR commended the activities undertaken by the Secretariat to implement the WHO strategy on research for health across the Organization.
3. The Committee recognized the strengthening of the research culture within the Secretariat, several examples of which had been described. These include the provision of support to WHO technical programmes with research priority-setting (for instance, the possible effects of radiofrequency radiation on health, drawing up the public health research agenda for influenza, and the development of the research agenda for noncommunicable diseases), translation of knowledge into practice, and establishment of a cross-cutting collaborative group on research. ACHR welcomed the intensification of activities to implement the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property.
4. ACHR decided to align its future work more directly with the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the WHO research for health strategy. It established several subcommittees to work on various aspects of an assessment of the impact on research and health (see also paragraphs 7 and 8).
5. ACHR welcomed WHO's commitment to research as the foundation of policy as evidenced, for example, by the decision that the theme of *The world health report 2012* would be research for health.
6. ACHR agreed that a report card for monitoring progress in implementing the WHO strategy on research for health would be of value. Such a reporting tool would take account of all five of the strategy's goals. ACHR further agreed to the establishment of a working group to explore other ways of plotting progress.
7. The Committee endorsed the establishment of a Research Ethics Subcommittee, whose immediate task would be to provide advice and guidance to the Secretariat during the revision of the operational guidelines for ethics committees that review biomedical research.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Document TDR/PRD/ETHICS/2000.1.

8. The Committee also agreed to establish a subcommittee to explore the potential for developing a framework for mandatory impact evaluation.

9. The Committee agreed that the Secretariat would seek advice on nominations for new members from the regional focal points for Research Policy and Cooperation. It was expected that these focal points would consult with the regional advisory committees on health research during this process.

#### **ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

10. The Board is invited to note the report.

= = =