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## Consultative expert working group on research and development: financing and coordination

### Report by the Secretariat

1. In response to the Health Assembly's request in resolution WHA63.28 on the establishment of a consultative expert working group on research and development: financing and coordination adopted in May 2010, the Director-General invited Member States to nominate appropriate experts for membership of the group. In January 2011, the Executive Board approved the proposed roster of experts, 21 in total, nominated according to the process set out in the resolution.<sup>1</sup> At its 129th session in May 2011, the Board noted the workplan and inception report drawn up by the Group at its first meeting (Geneva, 5–7 April 2011).<sup>2</sup> The inception report also included information on the one-day Open Forum that was held as part of that meeting.

2. At its second meeting (Geneva, 7 and 8 July 2011) the Group reviewed the submissions received<sup>3</sup> in response to the public call for proposals agreed at its first meeting. It also reviewed proposals that had previously been made to the former Expert Working Group on Research and Development Financing.<sup>4</sup>

3. The Consultative Expert Working Group has taken particular care to make its proceedings inclusive, transparent and free of conflict of interest. At the end of each of its two meetings, it has held open briefing sessions in order to convey the main outcomes. All relevant documents, including reports of the meetings, are being made public through the WHO web site.<sup>5</sup>

4. In accordance with resolution WHA63.28 the Group also held several regional consultations: for the African Region (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 27 August 2011), South-East Asia Region (New Delhi, 7 October 2011), and Western Pacific Region (Manila, 13 October 2011); the meeting for the Eastern Mediterranean Region is scheduled to be held in Cairo in November 2011. The date of the meeting for the Region of the Americas has yet to be determined. No dedicated regional consultation meeting was convened in the European Region, but the Group's work was presented and discussed at the 7th European Congress on Tropical Medicine & International Health (Barcelona, Spain,

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<sup>1</sup> See document EB128/2011/REC/2, summary record of the second (section 2), third (section 1) and ninth (section 1) meetings.

<sup>2</sup> See document EB129/2011/REC/1, summary record of the second meeting, section 3.

<sup>3</sup> Available at: [http://www.who.int/phi/news/cewg\\_submissions/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/phi/news/cewg_submissions/en/index.html) (accessed 24 October 2011).

<sup>4</sup> All proposals reviewed by that group can be found in its final report (document WHO/PHI/10.1).

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.who.int/phi/news/cewg\\_2011](http://www.who.int/phi/news/cewg_2011) (accessed 24 October 2011).

3–6 October 2011). Reports of all meetings are being posted on the WHO web site as they become available.<sup>1</sup>

5. The Group's Chair convened a meeting for the Vice-Chair and four rapporteurs (Oslo, 18–20 September 2011) in order to prepare the work in advance of its third meeting.

6. At its third meeting, scheduled to take place after this report has been written (Geneva, 16–19 November 2011), the Group intends to finalize assessments of the proposals for research and development financing and coordination that it has reviewed, and to prepare a first draft of its report.

7. It is intended that the Group's final report will be submitted to the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly in May 2012.

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

8. The Board is invited to note this report.

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<sup>1</sup> Available at [http://www.who.int/phi/news/cewg\\_2011](http://www.who.int/phi/news/cewg_2011) (accessed 24 October 2011).