

Global strategy on traditional medicine

Draft decision proposed by Bangladesh, China, Eswatini, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand and Türkiye

The Executive Board, having considered the report on the WHO traditional medicine strategy: 2014–2023,¹

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

The Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly,

(PP1) Recognizing 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 its 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);

(PP2) 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;

(PP3) Noting 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;

(PP4) Highlighting the importance of WHO’s role in providing technical support on integrating 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 protection and conservation of traditional and complementary

¹ Document EB152/37.

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

medicine resources, in particular knowledge and natural resources,¹ according to national laws and regulations;

(PP5) Noting the reported use of traditional and complementary medicine during the COVID-19 pandemic in several Member States;

(PP6) 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 and response to health emergencies;

(PP7) Recognizing also the value and the diversity of the cultures of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and their holistic traditional knowledge,²

Decided to request the Director-General:

(OP)1. to extend the WHO traditional medicine strategy 2014–2023 until 2025;

(OP)2. to develop, guided by the WHO traditional medicine strategy 2014–2023 and in consultation with Member States³ and relevant stakeholders, a draft new global traditional medicine strategy 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.

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¹ 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.

² A/C.3/76/L.22/Rev.1 Rights of indigenous peoples <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/N21/321/97/PDF/N2132197.pdf?OpenElement>.

³ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.