

## REPORT OF THE 41<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE TDR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC)

PROFESSOR CHARLES MGONE, CHAIR STAC

JCB42, 25-26 JUNE 2019, GENEVA

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diseases of poverty  
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### STAC DECISIONS 1

#### STAC reviewed and endorsed:

##### ☐ Director's report

- Reorganization at WHO; role of the Chief Scientist regarding TDR
- Improved funding leading to implementation of the higher budget scenario
- Strengthening of country research capacity and networking
- Establishment of TDR Gateway, a new publishing platform
- Progress on gender and social economic equity

##### ☐ 2018 TDR Results Report

- Good progress on key performance indicators (KPIs) in the first year of the 2018-23 strategic plan
- All 2018 Expected Results (ERs) were on track

##### ☐ Risk Management Report 2018

- Satisfactory risk management report; also validated by external auditors
- Ongoing concern on the impact of WHO staff mobility policy on TDR

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## STAC DECISIONS 2

### STAC reviewed and endorsed:

#### ☐ Team reports on technical progress and planned activities

- Received excellent updates and detailed reports on selected projects from all teams: IIR, VES, RCS and GE
- Explore close involvement in digital health technologies and impact of AI on TDR
- Explore use of online tools like MOOC (a massive open online course) to access hard-to-reach communities
- TDR should strive towards multisectoral rather than disease specific approach

#### ☐ Programme Budget and Workplan 2020-2021

- The draft 2020-21 TDR Programme Budget and Workplan with the JCB approved two scenarios of US\$ 40 million and US\$ 50 million was presented for comments. STAC reiterated on the emphasis of multisectoral and integrated approaches across all TDR's research activities.
- TDR to continue working on onchocerciasis and visceral leishmaniasis elimination where it has niche advantage.

## STAC RECOMMENDATIONS 1

- Reiterated the recommendation from STAC40 to use more conceptual diagrams in the Team Annual Reports.
- Promote the use of TDR Global to identify expertise at all levels in implementation research (trainees, grantees, experts).
- Await outcome of the engagement with the **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria** and the **WHO Guideline Review Committee's** Research Gaps Analysis to input into the planning for the TDR Implementation Research and Research Capacity Strengthening activities.
- Consider showing TDR leadership in conducting gender gap analysis and addressing the associated issues within TDR.
- Strengthen use of TDR Gateway within TDR; consider its broader engagement with relevant stakeholders, including the **WHO Chief Scientist, Alliance for Health Policy Systems Research, Human Reproduction Programme**, etc.); and its potential to influence evidence uptake into policy and practice.

## STAC RECOMMENDATIONS 2

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- Continue to strengthen collaboration between the regional training centres and universities.
- Continue to emphasise the importance of defining a framework for multi-sectoral approaches for malaria control and other vector borne diseases.
- Further emphasize in Expected Results plans and report the contribution that each Expected Result is making to SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) beyond SDG3 in areas such as education, sanitation, equity, etc.
- Reiterate the Scientific Working Group recommendation to put more funding in research on Visceral Leishmaniasis and gender if further funding becomes available.
- Welcomed the potential presented by integration with other initiatives within the Science Division at WHO, but recommends that TDR remain tightly connected to the disease control programmes at WHO.