

## 119th meeting of the TDR Standing Committee

16 and 17 April 2026

### Summary of decisions and recommendations

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decisions, Recommendations</i>
<p><b>Welcome and opening remarks</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcomed the arrival of Dr Marcus Lacerda as the new Director of TDR and to his first session of the Standing Committee (SC).</li> <li>• Expressed appreciation to the Director-General, the Chief Scientist, and WHO, as the executing agency of the co-sponsored programme, for their continued support during the transition period and for ensuring the appointment of the Director of TDR.</li> <li>• Expressed special thanks to Dr Garry Aslanyan for serving as Director a.i., as well as to Dr Michael Mihut and all TDR staff for their steady support during the transition period.</li> <li>• Requested that a letter be sent to the Director-General thanking him for his support of TDR and for the appointment of the Director, and inviting the Director-General to the JCB49 session in June 2026.</li> </ul> <p>Requested that the Secretariat prepare a draft letter and coordinate co-signature by the Chair of the JCB and the Chair of the SC.</p>
<p><b>Follow-up to the recommendations of the 118th session of the Standing Committee and the 48th session of the Joint Coordinating Board</b></p> <p><b>Update from JCB representatives</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcomed progress made on follow-ups to the recommendations made by JCB48 and SC118, especially during the transition period.</li> <li>• Reiterated that this transition period has demonstrated the strength of TDR's governance model, its co-sponsored nature, and its strong commitment to achieving the goals of the Special Programme.</li> <li>• Requested that these positive reflections be widely shared with members of the JCB, donors and other stakeholders, and that they be included in the upcoming letter from the Chair to JCB members, observers and other stakeholders.</li> <li>• Requested that the Secretariat draft lessons learned from the transition experience in advance of the next session of the SC in November 2026, to inform a discussion on further strengthening the Programme, especially during times of uncertainty.</li> <li>• Requested that all follow-ups to recommendations from previous meetings be tracked, and that recommendations still underway be incorporated into the next cycle of reporting at the next SC session.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requested that several key actions be prioritised, including promoting and safeguarding TDR’s autonomy within WHO, supporting the Director in having time to focus on the resource mobilization drive, and appointing a Deputy Director.</li> <li>• Requested that the Chair of the JCB, the TDR Director, and relevant SC members continue to maintain close communication with TDR’s sister programme, HRP, to monitor developments regarding their position within WHO. Requested that the informal meetings between the Chairs of the JCB and PCC and Directors of the programmes continue as an established practice.</li> </ul>
<b>Update on TDR activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcomed progress in technical and programmatic achievements, including support to countries and the generation and use of evidence in public health systems.</li> <li>• Requested continued efforts to refocus capacity strengthening activities toward supporting institutions and research ecosystems in countries considering the evolving global health environment.</li> <li>• Welcomed the evidence of TDR’s impact and requested an increased focus on systematically presenting and communicating that impact.</li> </ul>
<b>Financial, Programme management and risk management update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endorsed the financial report, financial outlook, results report and risk management report.</li> <li>• Requested that the 2028–2029 budget scenario levels are presented to JCB as following: working level at \$40M, target level at \$50M and contingency level at \$32M.</li> <li>• Requested that TDR’s fundraising efforts are further strengthened, expanding to new potential partners and funders. Requested that fundraising efforts remain distinct from WHO’s broader resource mobilization efforts, to ensure targeted support for implementing TDR’s strategy and the biennial workplan and budget approved by the JCB.</li> </ul>
<b>Future of global health architecture and TDR’s role Governance and partnerships update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcomed the timely discussion on the rapidly evolving global health architecture and underscored the indispensable role that TDR’s work and model will play in addressing future global health challenges. Noted that the emerging global health ecosystem brings both opportunities and uncertainties, and emphasized that TDR can offer stability, transparency, and sustained research leadership throughout this transition and beyond.</li> <li>• Requested that the Secretariat and the Chair of the JCB work with the SC and others to help organise a special panel focused on evolving global health architecture and TDR’s role in the future global health ecosystem.</li> <li>• Requested a specific discussion at the next SC session on strengthening co-sponsor engagement, including division of labour, complementarity, and joint resource mobilization for TDR.</li> </ul>

<b><i>Agenda item</i></b>	<b><i>Decisions, Recommendations</i></b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endorsed the approach to the appointment of the new members of STAC with the list to be presented to the JCB49 for confirmation.</li> </ul>
<b>Any other business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed to hold the 120th session of the SC on 16–17 November 2026 in New York, USA, hosted by UNDP (with a hybrid option available). Agreed to plan for the 121st session of the SC to be held in April 2027 in Guatemala, with dates to be confirmed.</li> </ul>