

114th Session of the TDR Standing Committee

Salle U2, WHO headquarters, Geneva

16–17 November 2023

Summary of decisions and recommendations

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decisions, Recommendations</i>
Welcome and opening remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandeep Dhaliwal, chair of the SC in 2023, welcomed participants to the meeting with a special welcome to Jeremy Farrar, WHO's Chief Scientist, who in his role as the TDR Special Coordinator will be attending the SC meeting for the first time.
Greetings and updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vic Arendt, JCB Chair, congratulated TDR on recent achievements, especially in demonstrating how TDR's work contributes to elimination of diseases. Margaret Gyapong, Chair of STAC, reiterated the great opportunity that TDR has with the new strategy rolling out next year to contribute to global health and the overall SDG agenda.
Follow-up to the recommendations of the 113th session of the Standing Committee (SC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All recommendations made at the last meeting were followed up and many were part of the agenda of this meeting
Update on TDR activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcomed progress made in the last several months, including finalization of the new TDR strategy 2024–2029. Congratulated TDR on the recent high-profile elimination of VL in Bangladesh and the role that both TDR and implementation research played in the process.
Financial and Programme management update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved starting the implementation of the programme budget and workplan for 2024–2025 at the US\$ 40 million level as presented. Welcomed the efforts made to ensure next biennium has stable funding. Agreed that more effort was needed to increase the DF fundraising. Agreed to increase the proportion of DF funding moving forward with the 2026–2027 budget scenario levels. Reiterated the value of this approach in the current challenging context to assist in addressing the four global challenges as outlined in the strategy and to support additional fundraising. Reiterated concerns about the funding situation after 2025 and noted the urgency of diversifying the donor base by approaching BRICS countries and other non-traditional donors.

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Implementation of TDR's Strategy 2024–2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed the draft revision of the performance framework to support implementation of the new strategy. Requested SC members to provide further comments and engage in dialogue with TDR staff on the wording of the framework by the end of 2023, to allow for additional consultation with STAC in March 2024, review by the SC in April 2024 and final approval by the JCB in June 2024. • Reviewed the draft investment case document and requested SC members to discuss and provide further feedback by early December 2023, including sharing other examples of similar processes in other agencies. • Recommended engaging a health economist to provide additional expertise in return on investment and return on equity from TDR's activities. The final document should have a balance of examples from the past and proposed investment in the future and clearly complement the current strategy. • Welcomed plans for the 50th anniversary events for 2024. Agreed to support dissemination via co-sponsors and other agencies.
Planning within the Science Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed succession planning in preparation for the retirement of the current TDR Director coming up in 2025, and the process and next steps for recruitment. Requested that a subcommittee be created to steer the process and that an update be provided to the SC at its next meeting.
Governance and partnerships update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed plans for STAC membership and development of a new expertise/experience matrix to be used for recruitment of new STAC and SWG members fit for the new strategy and requested an update at the next meeting.
Any other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to hold the next session of the Standing Committee on Monday 29 and Tuesday, 30 April 2024 at UNICEF headquarters in New York.

Participants

Members

Dr Mandeep Dhaliwal, UNDP (Chair)

Dr Fatima Barry, World Bank

Dr Asm Shahabuddin, UNICEF

Dr Vic Arendt, Chair JCB

Dr Tahir Bin Aris, Vice-Chair JCB

Dr Dirk Mueller, Representative of the JCB resource contributor group

Dr Sunil de Alwis, Representative of the JCB disease endemic countries group

Professor Margaret Gyapong, Chair STAC

Special Programme (TDR)

Dr John Reeder, Director

Dr Garry Aslanyan, Manager, Partnerships and Governance

Dr Michael Mihut, Unit Head, Programme Innovation and Management

Ms Makiko Kitamura, Communications Officer