

108th Session of the TDR Standing Committee

17-18 November 2020, virtual

Summary of decisions and recommendations

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decisions, Recommendations</i>
Welcome and opening remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Soumya Swaminathan and Dr Mandeep Dhaliwal welcomed everybody to the virtual meeting.
Follow-up to the 107th session of the Standing Committee (SC) and recommendations from JCB43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All follow-ups from the previous session were addressed and some further discussed during this session.
Update on TDR activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcomed the update and congratulated Director TDR on progress made by the Special Programme, as well as the seamless transition into the new reality of the COVID-19 pandemic. Welcomed the current approach to engage TDR in the COVID-19 pandemic. Welcomed the high level of successful outputs achieved in all strategic priority areas. Welcomed TDR's efforts to reiterate its contribution to overall research and capacity building in LMICs and the activities that advocate for the impact of TDR-supported activities which enhance countries' surveillance and response capabilities in response to current or future infectious disease outbreaks.
Financial update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcomed the results-based approach of TDR's financial management and the successful resource mobilization efforts for the 2020-2021 biennium. Endorsed the Programme's financial update as of 30 September 2020 and outlook 2020-2023 and, in light of the confirmation of anticipated funding levels for 2020-2021, approved beginning of implementation of the US\$ 50 million budget scenario that includes US\$ 2.1 million of extra activities
News from the TDR co-sponsors including how they can collaborate with TDR on COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcomed the updates from TDR co-sponsors. Recommended that the Secretariat set up individual meetings with each co-sponsor to further discuss proposed areas of joint activities and report back to the next Standing Committee meeting.

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TDR Governance and partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended monitoring developments related to implementation of WHO's Mobility Policy and, at an appropriate time, request Chair JCB, jointly with the PCC* Chair, to submit a formal request for exemption from the policy for the WHO executed Special Programmes. Endorsed the proposed list of members of STAC as of 1 January 2021. Welcomed the plans for governance meetings in 2021 and requested an update at the next meeting of the SC.
Any other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed to hold the next session of the SC virtually on 13 and 14 April 2021, "hosted" by the World Bank, chair of the Standing Committee in 2021.

* *The Policy and Coordination Committee (PCC) of the UNDP-UNFPA-UNICEF-WHO-World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP)*

Participants

Members

Dr Mandeep Dhaliwal, UNDP (Chair)

Dr Robert Scherpbier, UNICEF

Dr Toomas Palu, World Bank

Dr Soumya Swaminathan, WHO

Dr Vic Arendt, Chair JCB

Dr Ning Xiao, Vice-Chair JCB

Professor Hannah Akuffo, Representative of the JCB resource contributor group

Professor Babatunde Salako¹, Representative of the JCB disease endemic countries group

Professor Charles Mgone, Chair STAC

Special Programme (TDR)

Dr John Reeder, Director

Dr Garry Aslanyan, Manager, Partnerships and Governance

Dr Beatrice Halpaap, Unit Head, Programme Innovation and Management

¹ Not able to attend.