## 108th Session of the TDR Standing Committee
17-18 November 2020, virtual

### Summary of decisions and recommendations

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<th>Agenda item</th>
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<td>Welcome and opening remarks</td>
<td>• Dr Soumya Swaminathan and Dr Mandeep Dhaliwal welcomed everybody to the virtual meeting.</td>
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<td>Follow-up to the 107th session of the Standing Committee (SC) and recommendations from JCB43</td>
<td>• All follow-ups from the previous session were addressed and some further discussed during this session.</td>
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| Update on TDR activities | • 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 | • 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 | • 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 | • 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** | • 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.