

110th Session of the TDR Standing Committee

9–10 November 2021, 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 Toomas Palu welcomed everybody to the virtual meeting. • Welcomed new members: Dr Tahir Bin Aris, Vice-Chair JCB, Dr Dirk Mueller, Representative of the JCB resource contributor group and Dr Sunil de Alwis, Representative of the JCB disease endemic countries group. • During her opening remarks, Dr Soumya Swaminathan thanked the Standing Committee for their continued guidance to the Programme, particularly at the time of the pandemic. Reiterated the need to support TDR in the future to ensure the Programme's sustainability.
Follow-up to the 109th session and the Special Session of the Standing Committee (SC) and JCB44 recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciated the information and thanked the Secretariat for diligently addressing all issues. All follow-ups from the previous sessions were addressed and some further discussed during this session.
Update on TDR activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked the Director for his comprehensive update on key activities and developments. • Congratulated TDR staff on achievements, despite difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. • Welcomed TDR's engagement with key WHO control programmes (the Global Malaria Programme, Global Tuberculosis Programme, Neglected Tropical Diseases, etc.) and departments on various activities by integrating evidence/research into their work in controlling infectious diseases of poverty. • Acknowledged TDR's enhanced partnerships and engagement with various areas/stakeholders. • Welcomed the visible outreach of TDR via the new Global Health Matters podcast that reiterates TDR's key role in global health efforts.
Financial update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsed the commencement of the 2022–2023 biennium at the US\$ 40 million budget level. • Due to continuing exchange rate risk potentially affecting the actual amount of undesignated funds received in 2022–2023, the SC recommended that the secretariat continue to closely monitor and update the income forecast. • Welcomed current resource mobilization efforts for undesignated funding (Canada, France, Germany, Luxembourg, UK) and designated funding (current projects and their potential continuation or expansion).

Agenda item	Decisions, Recommendations
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. • Acknowledged the considerable progress made in co-sponsor collaboration with TDR, particularly by UNICEF in the area of implementation research. • Requested that efforts continue in promoting inclusion of implementation research and use of evidence in major health programmes of the co-sponsors, adapting to various modalities of each co-sponsor's activities, including in areas such as supporting prioritization of the research agenda in countries, support for digital use of evidence for primary health care and ethics capacity.
TDR governance and partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked the Secretariat for its continued adaptation to the current situation with the pandemic and maintaining solid governance and oversight by all TDR governing bodies. • Requested continued monitoring of possible modalities of governance meetings in 2022 in line with global and WHO recommendations. <p>Seventh External Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked the Secretariat for timely management of the selection process for the consultant/company to undertake the review. • Agreed to select Roger Drew and team as the consultant to undertake the Seventh External Review. • Suggested that the consultant reviews and consider the evaluations of HRP¹ and AHPSR² conducted in the last few years.
Any other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to hold the next session of the SC virtually or in person on 25 and 26 April 2022 (<i>to be confirmed</i>), "hosted" by WHO, Chair of the Standing Committee in 2022.

Participants

Members

Dr Toomas Palu, World Bank (Chair)
 Dr Mandeep Dhaliwal, UNDP³
 Dr Robert Scherpbier, UNICEF
 Dr Soumya Swaminathan, WHO
 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 Charles Mgone, 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

¹ HRP - the UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction

² AHPSR - The Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research

³ Not able to attend