

111th Session of the TDR Standing Committee

25–26 April 2022, 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 Swaminathan, the current Chair of the Standing Committee, was not able to join due to unexpected duty travel. In her absence, the SC requested Dr Aslanyan to moderate the meeting.
Follow-up to the 110th session of the Standing Committee (SC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All follow-ups were addressed, with some being covered in more detail during upcoming presentations.
Update on TDR activities and recommendations from STAC44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congratulated the Director on the progress made and the amount of work and activities carried out by TDR staff and collaborators. Welcomed the work done by TDR on TB, malaria, multisectoral approaches/one health and other public health issues, especially in light of the negative impact on progress in achieving global goals as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Noted with satisfaction the work done on SORT IT and the IR MOOC and their catalytic roles in countries to promote the use of evidence in policy-making. Congratulated TDR on being part of the global discussion on decolonization of research via the Global Health Matters podcast and also by promoting intersectional strategies. Noted the recent appointment of the new Director of HRP, Dr Pascale Allotey, and recognized the opportunities for closer collaboration between the two special programmes. Requested continued and careful forecasting of income and contributions to TDR, considering the changing global economic and geopolitical environment. Congratulated Chair STAC on another productive meeting and insightful report on the scientific breadth and depth of TDR's work. Welcomed the switch to streamlined timing of the terms for the members of the Scientific Working Groups (SWGs), from 1 April to 31 March.
Financial update and Programme performance overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsed the preliminary financial report, the 2021 Results report and the Risk Management report, as presented. Noted the new Standard Operating Procedures for succession planning of TDR staff. Congratulated TDR on managing in a difficult and changing global environment while allowing for smooth implementation of activities.

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Report of the 7th External Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed progress made with the external review and endorsed the timeline and planning for the new strategy. • Welcomed the summary and recommendations at this stage of the review and noted the overall positive review of the place and role of TDR in the global health architecture. • Requested the Secretariat to share the final report of the external review and its response/actions to recommendations at the meeting of the Joint Coordinating Board (JCB) in June.
TDR governance and partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed the plans for the 45th JCB meeting in June 2022. • Reviewed the options for JCB elections in line with the advice obtained from the WHO legal office. • Agreed to recommend to the JCB to accept candidates under paragraph 2.2.1 by acclamation as five candidates applied for five vacancies. • Agreed to recommend to the JCB that, due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ the inability to hold elections under paragraph 2.2.3 in 2022; and ❖ the fact that three applications were received for the two vacancies the terms of the two current members under paragraph 2.2.2 whose term is due to end in 2022, should be automatically extended by one year. Requested the Secretariat to actively communicate with the Member States concerned to encourage them to take advantage of the elections in 2022 under paragraph 2.2.2 (members selected by the WHO Regional Committees). • Agreed to recommend to the Board that the terms of the current Chair and Vice Chair of the JCB be extended for another term from the meeting in 2023 (3 years and 2 years respectively). • Endorsed the proposed STAC membership from July 2022 and welcomed the switch to streamlined timing of the terms for the members of STAC, from 1 July to 30 June.
Any other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to hold the next session of the Standing Committee face-to-face on 22–23 November 2022 in Geneva, chaired by WHO.

Participants

Members

Dr Soumya Swaminathan, WHO (Chair)

Dr Toomas Palu, World Bank

Dr Mandeep Dhaliwal, UNDP

Dr Robert Scherpier, 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 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

* Not able to attend