

112th Session of the TDR Standing Committee

17–18 November 2022, hybrid

Summary of decisions and recommendations

Agenda item	Decisions Recommendations
Welcome and opening remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Standing Committee thanked Dr Soumya Swaminathan who welcomed all to the meeting. Dr Swaminathan informed the Committee of her imminent departure as the WHO Chief Scientist and as TDR's Special Programme Coordinator at the end of November. She reiterated her support for TDR and wished the Programme every success in its important work for countries.
Follow-up to the recommendations of the 111th session of the Standing Committee and the 45th session of the Joint Coordinating Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recommendations from previous meetings were all followed up, including some which are part of the agenda for this meeting.
Update on TDR activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congratulated the Director for the work done by TDR during the past several months. Welcomed TDR's engagement with various global health developments, such as the WHO clinical trials resolution and the need for continued support for country capacities for research. Congratulated for the progress made in engaging with WHO, other co-sponsors and other global health organizations.
Financial and Programme management update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcomed the update on finances and overall programme management. Reiterated support for TDR's financial planning and forecasting for the 2024–2025 budget in a conservative but flexible way to provide for stable operation of activities. Recommended exploring ways for TDR to operate with a higher ratio of designated funds in the total budget for activities that are aligned with the strategic priorities. Acknowledged the difficulties arising from the fact that some funds are received towards the end of the biennium, making it difficult to use them on short notice before the biennium ends. Agreed to continue to assess whether the risk of spending funds before they arrive is higher than the risk of carrying funds over at the end of the biennium. Agreed that TDR should continue to carry over a small amount of such funds at the end of the biennium as part of mitigating the risks.

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External Review, including remaining issues to be settled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed the thorough review of the recommendations made by the Seventh External Review as part of the process of developing the new strategy. • Agreed that TDR should further explore new ways of working with countries, enhancing its relationships with other global health research entities in common areas of interest and further streamlining coherence of the work under Global Engagement.
Development of the 2024–2029 TDR Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided input on the early draft of ideas for the development of the strategy. Reiterated the need to continue to focus on implementation research and research capacity strengthening. • Reiterated that the new strategy is an opportunity for TDR to illustrate its comparative advantage and how TDR will contribute to key global challenges such as climate change, the One Health approach, adaptation of digital technologies, health system resilience strengthening, pandemic preparedness and others. • Welcomed the plans for consulting various stakeholders and engagement of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), the Scientific Working Groups and the WHO regional offices in the process so far. • Requested to engage the Standing Committee throughout the process in advance of their next meeting to review the early draft for discussion and approval by the Joint Coordinating Board (JCB).
Governance and partnerships update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed efforts to streamline the work of TDR's committees, which will be discussed at STAC in March 2023.
Any other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to hold the next session of the Standing Committee face-to-face on 18–19 April 2023 in New York, chaired by UNDP.

Participants

Members

Dr Soumya Swaminathan, WHO (Chair)

Dr Toomas Palu, World Bank

Dr Mandeep Dhaliwal, UNDP

Dr Robert Scherpbier, 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

Invited JCB and STAC members (Items 6 and 7)

Professor Margaret Gyapong, Incoming Chair STAC

Belgium: Hannes Dekeyser

Germany: Angela Schug, Lea Knopf, Isabella Napoli, Joachim Klein, Ulrike Bußhoff, Jürgen May

Sweden: Maria Teresa Bejarano