

115th meeting of the TDR Standing Committee

UNICEF headquarters, New York

29–30 April 2024

Summary of decisions and recommendations

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Decisions, Recommendations</i>
Welcome and opening remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helga Fogstad welcomed Standing Committee (SC) members to UNICEF. She reiterated that this was an opportune time for TDR to embark on its new strategy, gearing up to the achievements of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). • SC thanked UNICEF leadership and staff for hosting the meeting and in addition for organizing a lunchtime event with UNICEF staff.
Follow-up to the recommendations of SC114 and the 46th session of the Joint Coordinating Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked TDR Secretariat for the timely follow-up to all recommendations from the last session and for including the updates on the agenda of the meeting.
Update on TDR activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed progress made in the last six months, noting the smooth transition to the implementation of the new strategy and timely completion of TDR's 2023 Annual Report. • Acknowledged progress made in aligning current and future activities with the strategic areas of the new strategy and with the four global challenges and one health approach. • Congratulated on the solid technical and implementation mechanism in place to allow for results on the new strategy to be demonstrated as early as end of the first year of its implementation in 2024. • Recommended focusing on one or two global challenges and developing an overarching integrated project proposal which can serve as the basis for fundraising designated funds. Reiterated the need for these to be closely aligned with the activities of the Programme funded by undesignated funds. • Thanked the Chair of STAC for a detailed update on the work of the Committee, its scientific review of the activities and high calibre of advice and recommendations continuously provided to the Director TDR on the implementation of the strategy.

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Financial and Programme management update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledged the detailed overview of the financial performance of the Programme and the financial update to date, as well as the outlook for 2024–2025. • Requested continued monitoring of the financial situation, predictability of core funds and fluctuation of currency exchange rates. • Requested an update on the designated project development for the next meeting to kick start fundraising that will allow to enter the 2026–2027 biennium with a stronger base. • Endorsed the TDR results report 2023 for JCB's approval. • Endorsed the TDR Risk Management report 2023 for JCB's approval.
Implementation of TDR's Strategy 2024–2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed the revised version of the TDR Performance Framework. Recommended that additional indicators of geographic diversity be included in addition to gender and involvement of disease endemic countries. Endorsed this version with possible revisions to be presented for the JCB's approval. • Recommended using the results that are based on the TDR Performance Framework in the form of a <i>dashboard of results</i> which would be available on TDR's website. • Thanked the Secretariat for engaging health economic expertise in the process of finalizing TDR's investment case. Recommended including specific cases on TDR's role in establishing PDPs. • Recommended that the investment case be used for fundraising activities as planned and to complement the current strategy. • Recommended that the final version of the investment case be made available on the TDR website along with the strategy.
Planning within the Science Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed progress made and accordingly the timeline for the recruitment of the new TDR Director in 2025 and thanked the recruitment sub-committee for the work done to date. • Recommended that the Chief Scientist considers requesting an extension for the current Director as needed to ensure smooth transition and handover.
News from the TDR co-sponsors including how they can collaborate with TDR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed the engaging exchange between the four agencies on the best ways to work together in the future around important goals and their achievement. • Recommended that TDR use the identities of the four co-sponsors in its communications and closely engages with each agency in the process of dissemination of results, achievement or planning via partnership and global engagement processes currently in place.

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Governance and partnerships update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked the Secretariat for the work done in putting in place strong governance mechanisms for implementation of the new strategy, including establishment of the Scientific Working Group that will assist the Director and staff in working on implementation of the strategy. • Endorsed the STAC membership and the STAC and SWG terms of reference for JCB's approval. • Welcomed the plans to open a call for new STAC members in 2025. • Thanked Dr Arendt for his years of service as the Chair of JCB. • Agreed to recommend a new JCB Chair and Vice-chair at the JCB meeting in June 2024 and plans for meetings of JCB resource contributors and DEC members to confirm the representatives on the Standing Committee.
Any other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed that the next session of the Standing Committee would take place virtually 25–26 November. • Agreed to hold extraordinary meetings of the Standing Committee as required in the process of the recruitment of the new Director.

Participants

Members

Ms Ann Robins, UNICEF (Chair)

Dr Helga Fogstad, UNICEF

Dr Fouzia Shafique, UNICEF

Ms Eleanie Nyankesha, UNICEF

Dr Asm Shahabuddin, UNICEF

Dr Mandeep Dhaliwal, UNDP

Dr Fatima Barry, World Bank

Dr Jeremy Farrar, WHO

Dr Vic Arendt, 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 Margaret Gyapong, Chair STAC*

Special Programme (TDR)

Dr John Reeder, Director

Dr Garry Aslanyan, Manager, Partnerships and Global Engagement

Dr Michael Mihut, Unit Head, Programme Innovation and Management

* Attended remotely