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ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ
ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ
ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО

**1st Regional Traditional
Complementary and Integrative
Medicine Stakeholders Meeting,
Copenhagen, Denmark, 9 – 10
September 2025
UN City, Copenhagen, Denmark
9 – 10 September 2025**

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Scope and purpose

The Traditional Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCIM) Research Priority Setting Exercise is a critical initiative by the World Health Organization (WHO) to advance the integration of traditional medicine into global health systems. Coordinated by the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre and the Research for Health department, with support from the University of Technology Sydney, this project aims to establish a comprehensive TCIM Research Roadmap.

Rationale and Importance:

Traditional medicine plays a significant role in healthcare globally, yet challenges persist in integrating this knowledge into mainstream healthcare due to fragmented research and a lack of cohesive global guidelines. The exercise seeks to overcome these hurdles by prioritizing research agendas that provide strategic direction, foster reliable evidence generation, and translate findings into effective policies and interventions. The roadmap will consider the worldviews, epistemologies, and principles of various TCIM systems to ensure relevance, acceptability, and benefit to users and providers.

Underpinning Principles and Values:

The exercise is guided by the fundamental principle of generating high-quality, context-appropriate evidence for the safe and effective use of traditional practices and products. It recognizes that evidence in TCIM is often grounded in centuries of practical experience, oral traditions, and holistic understandings. The initiative promotes transformative changes in global health by encouraging research that explores innovative TCIM approaches, investigates how contemporary science can enhance TCIM practices, and identifies what modern science can learn from TCIM. Key guiding principles include inclusivity, respect for traditional practices, sustainability, and the rights of indigenous peoples, ensuring equity and cost-effectiveness. Active involvement of diverse stakeholders, especially Indigenous peoples and local communities, is crucial

to challenge dominant colonial approaches and enrich the research process. The exercise also emphasizes sustainability and biodiversity conservation, highlighting TCIM's contribution to personalized medicine and the integration of technology and artificial intelligence.

Aim and Outputs of the TCIM Research Priority Setting Exercise:

The overarching aim is to support and facilitate effective, fair, and equitable access to TCIM through rigorous, appropriate, and prioritized TCIM research, while strengthening networks among key stakeholders.

The primary output is a Regional TCIM Research Roadmap that will:

- Establish global research priorities for TCIM from 2025-2034, relevant at individual country, regional, and global levels.
- Prioritize research to identify appropriate methodologies for TCIM.
- Guide resource allocation for effective and impactful TCIM research programs.
- Improve coordination of TCIM research to build a knowledge base that allows TCIM to be actively managed through appropriate national policies.
- Specifically, the roadmap will:
- Identify knowledge gaps relevant to regions and globally to achieve the strategic objectives of the Global TCIM strategy 2025-2034.
- Create a prioritized list of domains and categories for TCIM research funding, highlighting key topics and activities.
- Recommend funding and policy mechanisms to create sustainability in TCIM research.
- Recommend effective mechanisms and frameworks to coordinate regional and global TCIM research efforts.
- Propose a framework of ethics, values, and principles for the conduct and reporting of TCIM research.
- Promote transformative changes in global health by encouraging research into innovative TCIM approaches, exploring how contemporary science can enhance TCIM practices, and identifying what modern science can learn from TCIM.
- Lead to the creation of a decision support tool for Member States, evaluating feasibility, timelines, processes, and costs for various research priorities.

Target Audience:

The TCIM Research Roadmap is intended to inform researchers, policymakers, and funding bodies who contribute to or rely on TCIM research evidence.

Project Plan and Phases:

The project will employ a convergent mixed methodology with iterative parallel arms, following WHO guidance on 'A Systematic Approach for Undertaking a Research-Priority Setting Exercise'. Diverse key stakeholders, including TCIM and indigenous

health practitioners, researchers, policymakers, funding agencies, healthcare providers, academic institutions, and civil society organizations, will be engaged from an early stage.

The project is divided into four phases:

- *Scoping*: Finalization of the project plan, timetable, proposed methodology, and staffing arrangements.
- *Landscape Analysis*: Exploration of the global TCIM research landscape through literature, document analysis, and broader data sets.
- *Delphi Study*: Obtaining expert perspectives on TCIM research priorities and expected outcomes through in-person and online stakeholder consultations, followed by multiple rounds of survey research.
- *Implementation and Dissemination*: Preparing findings for publication and developing an implementation plan, including dissemination and sustainability strategies.

Key considerations during the identification of knowledge gaps and development of research priorities include:

- Exploring holistic health approaches and the linkages between TCIM, biodiversity, sustainability, and planetary health.
- Leveraging technology, digital health, and AI to enhance TCIM research and practice.
- Identifying and developing new methods for TCIM research, including validating medicinal products without harming animals.
- Emphasizing research that acknowledges and evaluates the holistic effects of multi-ingredient TCIM medicines and interventions.
- Securing adequate funding and resources, advocating for TCIM integration into health policies and systems, and incorporating advances in ontology and epistemology to inform research methodologies, including clarifying a TCIM-sensitive approach to defining evidence.
- Identifying knowledge gaps in skills, policies, and legal frameworks that hinder TCIM integration into mainstream healthcare systems.
- Exploring areas of TCIM research with significant implications for trade and commerce.

Provisional agenda

Proposed Agenda for Regional Meeting on Traditional Medicine Research Priority Setting

Day 1: Setting the Stage and Identifying Regional Priorities

Morning Session:

- **9:00 - 9:15 AM:** Welcome and Opening Remarks
 - Welcome address by CPS Director and AMP Regional Advisor
 - Introduction to the Global TCIM Research Priority Setting Exercise
- **9:15 - 10:15 AM:** Keynote Address: The Role of Traditional Medicine in Global Health
 - Overview of the global landscape of TCIM in the WHO EURO
 - The importance of evidence based TCIM
- **10:15 - 11:00 AM:** Panel Discussion: Challenges and Opportunities in TCIM Research
- **11:00 - 11:15 AM:** Coffee Break
- **11:15 AM - 12:30 PM:** Breakout Sessions: Identifying Regional Research Priorities

Afternoon Session:

- **1:30 - 2:30 PM:** Breakout Sessions: Identifying Regional Research Priorities
- **2:30 - 3:00 PM:** Coffee Break
- **3:00 - 5:00 PM:** Breakout Sessions: Developing Research Methodologies
 - Group discussions on appropriate methodologies for regional priorities.

Day 2: Capacity Building, Knowledge Sharing, and Way Forward

Morning Session:

- **9:00 - 10:00 AM:** Keynote Address: Capacity Building in TM Research
- **10:00 - 12:30 PM:** Breakout Sessions: Developing a Regional TM Research Roadmap

Afternoon Session:

- **1:30 - 2:30 PM:** Plenary Session: Sharing Regional Research Roadmaps
- **2:30 - 3:00 PM:** Coffee Break

- **3:00 - 4:00 PM:** Panel Discussion: The Way Forward
- **4:00 - 4:30 PM:** Closing Remarks and Way Forward

Note:

- The agenda is flexible and can be adjusted based on the specific needs and interests of the participants.
 - Ensure adequate time for networking and informal discussions.
 - Provide opportunities for participants to share their experiences and challenges.
 - Use technology to facilitate interactive sessions and virtual participation.

By following this agenda, the regional meeting can effectively address the key issues in TM research and develop a strong foundation for future collaboration.