

Follow up of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination

The Sixty-sixth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination;¹

Recalling resolution WHA65.22, which requested the Director-General, inter alia, to hold an open-ended meeting of Member States that would thoroughly analyse the report and the feasibility of the recommendations proposed by the Consultative Expert Working Group, and taking into account discussions during regional committee meetings and regional and national consultations;

Further recalling the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property and its aims to promote innovation, build capacity, improve access and mobilize resources to address diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries as well as resolutions WHA59.24, WHA63.21 and WHA63.28;

Recognizing the urgency in addressing the health needs of developing countries and the related inequities in the current research landscape due to recognized market failures and the need for enhancing investments in health research and development related to Type II and Type III diseases and the specific research and development needs of developing countries in relation to Type I diseases;

Acknowledging the need for improving monitoring of health research and development resource flows, and identification of gaps in health research and development, better coordination of health research and development, and priority-setting based on the public health needs of developing countries;

Acknowledging also that the provision of additional information on disease burden, research opportunities, and the potential health impact of new health products, as well as an estimation of the resources needed to develop new health products and make them accessible to the poor in developing countries, can provide an important basis for advocacy for additional financing;

Recognizing the importance of securing sustainable financing mechanisms for health research and development in order to develop and deliver health products that address the health needs of developing countries;

¹ Document A66/23.

Recalling the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property, which refers to a range of incentive schemes for health research and development, with one objective being the de-linkage of the cost of research and development from the price of health products;

Recognizing the interlinkage of monitoring, coordination and financing of health research and development as well as the importance of predictability and sustainability of the resources required to enhance health research and development;

Reaffirming the importance of facilitation of technology transfer on mutually agreed terms between developed and developing countries as well as among developing countries as appropriate;

Underscoring that health research and development should be needs-driven and evidence-based, and be guided by the following core principles: affordability, effectiveness, efficiency and equity; and it should be considered as a shared responsibility;

Realizing the need for improving priority-setting and transparent decision-making processes based on the public health needs of developing countries;

Noting the important role of the public and private sectors in promoting innovation and developing new health products,

1. ENDORSES the following strategic workplan to improve monitoring and coordination, and to ensure sustainable funding for health research and development, in line with the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property, as a step towards achieving the goal of development and delivery of affordable, effective, safe and quality health products for which existing market mechanisms fail to provide incentives for health research and development; and agreeing to develop the strategic workplan further, through the broad engagement of public and private entities, academia and civil society;

2. URGES Member States:¹

(1) to strengthen health research and development capacities, increasing investments in health research and development for diseases disproportionately affecting developing countries;

(2) to promote capacity building, transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, manufacture of health products in developing countries, and health research and development and access to health products in developing countries through investments and sustainable collaboration;

(3) to establish or strengthen national health research and development observatories or equivalent functions for tracking and monitoring of relevant information on health research and development, in line with agreed norms and standards as established in subparagraph 4(1) below, and to contribute to the work of a global health research and development observatory;

(4) to promote coordination of health research and development at national, regional and global levels in order to maximize synergies;

¹ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

(5) to identify projects, as part of the strategic workplan, through regional consultations and broad engagement of relevant stakeholders, to address research gaps, ensure effective coordination at all levels, and secure resource needs for implementation in order to develop and deliver health products;

(6) to continue consultation, at national as well as at regional and global levels, including through the governing bodies of WHO, on specific aspects related to coordination, priority setting and financing of health research and development;

(7) to contribute to coordinated and sustainable financing mechanisms for health research and development, through voluntary contributions for activities at country, regional and global levels, in particular for monitoring, including a global health research and development observatory;

3. CALLS upon all stakeholders, including the private sector, academic institutions and nongovernmental organizations:

(1) to share relevant information with WHO on health research and development in order to contribute to a global health research and development observatory;

(2) to contribute to the financing mechanisms;

4. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to develop norms and standards for classification of health research and development, building on existing sources, in consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders, in order to collect and collate information systematically;

(2) to support Member States in their endeavours to establish or strengthen health research and development capacities and monitor relevant information on health research and development;

(3) to establish a global health research and development observatory within WHO's Secretariat in order to monitor and analyse relevant information on health research and development, building on national and regional observatories (or equivalent functions) and existing data collection mechanisms with a view to contributing to the identification of gaps and opportunities for health research and development and defining priorities in consultation with Member States, as well as, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, in order to support coordinated actions;

(4) to facilitate through regional consultations and broad engagement of relevant stakeholders the implementation of a few health research and development demonstration projects to address identified gaps that disproportionately affect developing countries, particularly the poor, and for which immediate action can be taken;

(5) to review existing mechanisms in order to assess their suitability to perform the coordination function of health research and development;

(6) to explore and evaluate existing mechanisms for contributions to health research and development and, if there is no suitable mechanism, to develop a proposal for effective

mechanisms, including pooling resources and voluntary contributions, as well as a plan to monitor their effectiveness independently;

(7) to convene another open-ended meeting of Member States prior to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly in May 2016, in order to assess progress and continue discussions on the remaining issues in relation to monitoring, coordination and financing for health research and development, taking into account all relevant analyses and reports, including the analysis of the report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination;

(8) to report on the review of existing coordination mechanisms (referred to in subparagraph 4(5) above), as well as on the evaluation of existing mechanisms for contributions to health research and development (referred to in subparagraph 4(6) above) to the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly, through the Executive Board at its 134th session; to report on the implementation of health research and development demonstration projects (referred to in subparagraph 4(4) above) to the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly, through the Executive Board at its 136th session; and to transmit the report of the open-ended meeting of Member States to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly.

Ninth plenary meeting, 27 May 2013
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