



**World Health  
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Africa**

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**REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA**

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## **RESOLUTION**

### **ENHANCING THE ROLE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE IN HEALTH SYSTEMS: A STRATEGY FOR THE AFRICAN REGION (Document AFR/RC63/6)**

The Regional Committee,

Having examined the document entitled “Enhancing the role of traditional medicine in health systems: A strategy for the African Region”;

Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA30.49, WHA31.33, WHA40.33, WHA41.19, WHA42.43, WHA44.34, respectively on promotion and development of training and research in traditional medicine; medicinal plants; traditional medicine and medicinal plants; and traditional medicine and modern health care;

Underscoring the commitment of African Union Heads of State and Government to promote traditional medicine through the endorsement of the decision to commemorate every year the African Traditional Medicine Day and Declaration on the Second Decade of African Traditional Medicine (2011-2020);

Recognizing the need for a holistic approach of traditional medicine therapies and practices to the diagnosis, prevention or elimination of physical, mental and social illnesses;

Cognizant of the commitment of Member States to integrating positive practices of traditional medicine in national health systems, as reaffirmed in World Health Assembly resolution WHA62.13 and Regional Committee Resolution AFR/RC50/R3;

Noting with satisfaction the progress made by Member States in the implementation of Resolution AFR/RC50/R3 since its adoption in 2000, in enhancing acceptance of traditional medicine in national health systems and in establishing traditional medicine policy framework in countries;

Further noting the need to adapt the regional strategy to the current context and priorities as affirmed by Member States in adopting the Regional Director’s “Progress report on the decade of traditional medicine in the African Region (Document AFR/RC61/PR/2)”;

1. ADOPTS Document AFR/RC63/6 on “Enhancing the Role of Traditional Medicine in Health Systems: A Strategy for the African Region”;
2. URGES Member States:
  - (a) to accelerate the implementation of national policies, strategies and plans and create budget lines to support the implementation of the adopted regional strategy for traditional medicine;
  - (b) to establish an appropriate structure in the ministries of health to promote, coordinate and monitor the implementation of multisectoral traditional medicine strategic plans;
  - (c) to take concrete steps to assess the funding needs for traditional medicine research and development, and allocate adequate financial resources from national budgets while considering innovative funding sources and mechanisms;
  - (d) to document and preserve traditional medicine knowledge and practices in their various forms and develop national legislation for the protection of intellectual property rights and access to biological resources;
  - (e) to strengthen regulation of traditional medicine practitioners, practices and products, including advertising, and protect the public against quack practitioners and illicit products;
  - (f) to strengthen the capacity of national medicines regulatory authorities to issue marketing authorization for traditional medicine products that meet national criteria and WHO norms and standards of quality, safety and efficacy and to undertake joint reviews of traditional medicine products registration files;
  - (g) to invest in biomedical and operational research aimed at expanding the scope of accepted best practices of traditional medicine in national health systems;
  - (h) to strengthen the capacity of training institutions to integrate traditional medicine modules in the curricula of health sciences students and health professionals;
  - (i) to promote public-private partnerships aimed at fostering investment in large-scale cultivation and conservation of medicinal plants;
  - (j) to strengthen the capacity of professional associations and traditional medicine practitioners’ regulatory bodies to identify qualified traditional health practitioners for accreditation or licensing;
  - (k) to conduct a mid-term assessment of the implementation of this updated regional strategy by the end of 2018 and a final assessment by the end of 2023.
3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
  - (a) to provide technical support to countries in implementing this updated regional strategy and undertake the necessary advocacy with national authorities and development partners;
  - (b) to provide technical support to strengthen national medicines regulatory authorities with a view to enhancing cooperation in and harmonization of the regulation of traditional

medicine practitioners, practices and products; and advocate for production of traditional medicine products;

- (c) to provide technical support for traditional medicine research and development in order to generate evidence and knowledge and promote innovation and local production of traditional medicine products for priority diseases;
- (d) to provide technical support to countries to improve the accuracy of data on the extent of use of traditional medicine;
- (e) to promote collaboration, exchange of experience, dissemination of best practices, and harmonization of the regulation of traditional medicine practice at the regional and subregional levels;
- (f) to monitor the implementation of the regional strategy and report on progress made to the Regional Committee in 2016, 2019 and 2023.