



WHO BioHub System

Technical Consultation

**‘Researcher’s needs and contributions
to the future pandemic system’**

28 October 2021



Agenda



- Opening remarks
- Introduction to the WHO BioHub System and its Guiding Principles
- Presentation of meeting objectives
- Moderated discussion
- Closing remarks

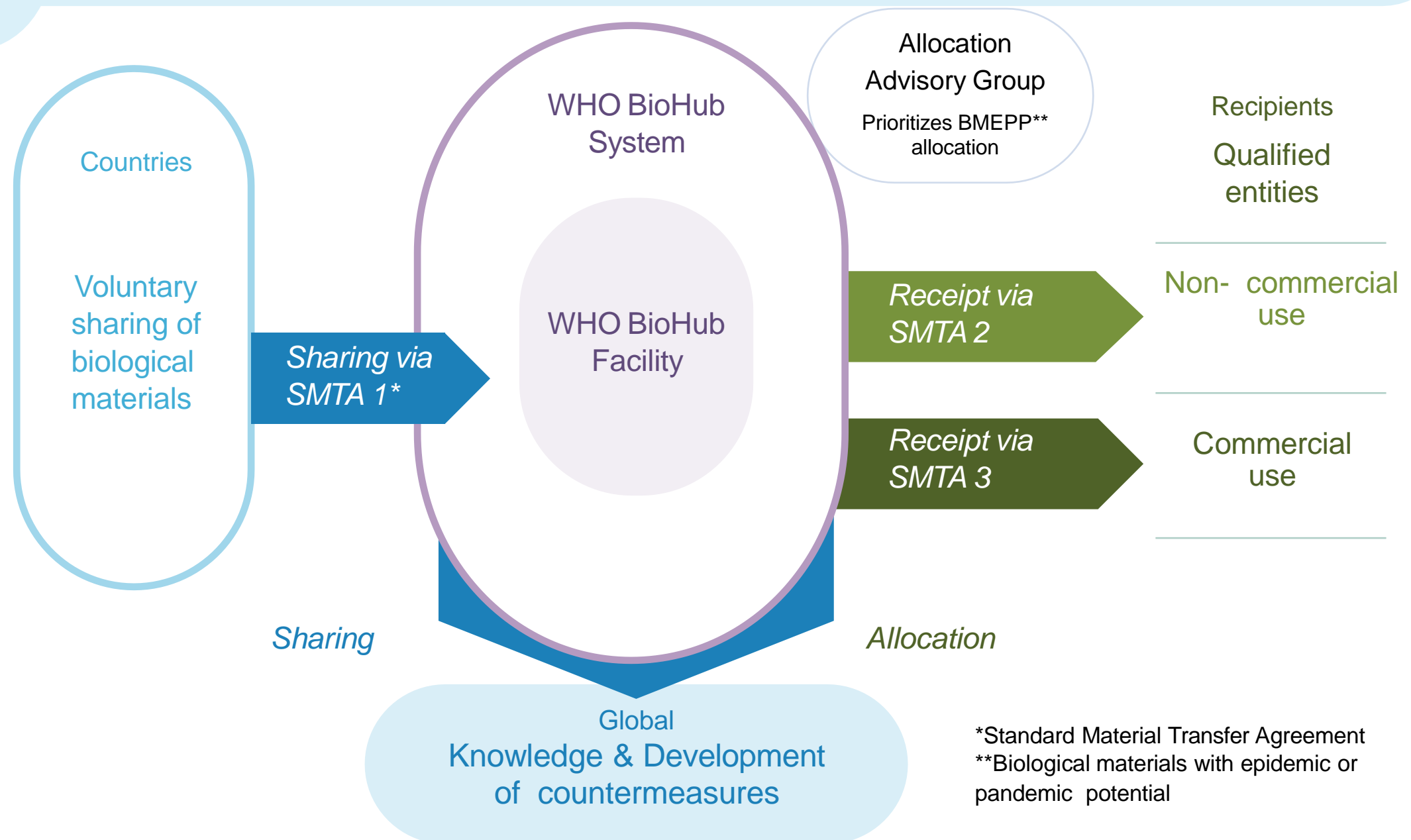
Opening remarks



**Dr Soumya Swaminathan,
WHO Chief Scientist**

Introduction to the WHO BioHub System and its Guiding Principles

WHO BioHub System: Concept & Elements



WHO BioHub System

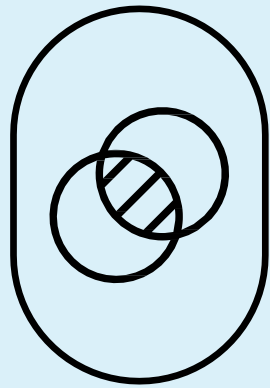


Guiding Principles of the WHO BioHub System

-  A voluntary system for the global public health
-  Timeliness
-  Equity and fairness
-  Transparency
-  Acknowledgement and co-authorship
-  Sustainability and maximal preservation
-  Collaboration & Cooperation
-  Best practices for safety and security
-  Consistency with applicable law
-  Consistency with applicable ethical regulations, norms, and standards requirements

The full text of the Guiding Principles can be found at: <https://www.who.int/initiatives/who-biohub>

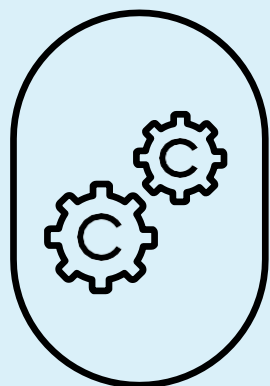
Key Guiding Principles in focus for this thematic session



Transparency

Terms and conditions with respect to the use of BMEPP, sequence data and information from the WHO BioHub System will be made publicly available, as will criteria to receive BMEPP.

Key Guiding Principles in focus for this thematic session

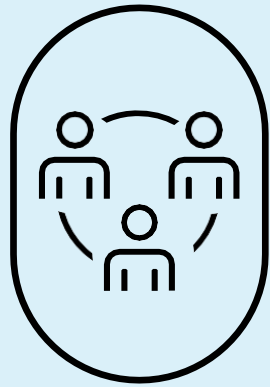


Acknowledgement and co-authorship

The contributions of collaborators to the WHO BioHub System, including laboratories providing BMEPP or genetic sequence data, will be appropriately acknowledged in presentations and publications, using guidelines such as those outlined by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors.

To the extent possible, entities using BMEPP in scientific research projects will seek the participation of scientists from the originating laboratory or countries and make efforts to engage them in preparation of manuscripts for presentation and publication.

Key Guiding Principles in focus for this thematic session



Collaboration & Cooperation

The WHO BioHub System will promote collaboration and cooperation with existing networks, repositories, and scientific groups to strengthen knowledge and contribute to the advancement of effective, efficient, fair and equitable response to epidemic or pandemic public health events.

Approach to developing the WHO BioHub System



WHO BioHub System

WHO is working in accordance with WHA 74.7



WHO / Antoine Tardy

WHO is aiming to:

- Serve the request from MS made in WHA74.7, Agenda item 17.3 31 May 2021
- Ensure availability of a pathogen sharing system that can be rapidly activated in the event of Disease X

Paragraph 9.15:

- *work together with Member States, the medical and scientific community, and laboratory and surveillance networks,*
- *to promote early, safe, transparent and rapid sharing of samples and genetic sequence data of pathogens of pandemic and epidemic, or other high-risk, potential,*
- *taking into account relevant national and international laws, regulations, obligations and frameworks, including, as appropriate, the International Health Regulations (2005), the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization and the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework and*
- *the importance of ensuring rapid access to human pathogens for public health preparedness and response purposes;”.*

Topics for technical consultations with stakeholders



Research

Handling research results and appropriate recognition of contributions

Key (technical) stakeholders:

Lab networks, scientists and biorepositories etc



GSD

Sharing of Genetic Sequence Data

Key (technical) stakeholders:

Legal experts and civil society and industry, other UN agencies, etc



IPR

Intellectual Property Rights

Key (technical) stakeholders:

Legal experts and civil society and industry, other UN agencies, etc



Access to benefits arising from the sharing of BMEPP

Difference between non-commercial and commercial benefits

Key (technical) stakeholders:

Legal experts esp. on Nagoya, civil society and industry involvement, etc

Meeting Objectives



The consultation aims to:

- **obtain input from various stakeholders to design the WHO BioHub System**
- **engage different stakeholder communities early on, in the design of the System, to ensure its smooth global functioning, to bring global benefits and to advance public health goals**

Discussion



Key discussion topics:

- What are the **incentives and barriers** for the sharing of biological materials with epidemic or pandemic potential? How might we address the barriers?
- In designing the WHO BioHub System, what are the **good practices and solutions that can** help achieve the System's objectives and align with its principles?
- What are the **best ways for the WHO BioHub System** to support global research advancement and capacity development?
- Is there a need for a **system to monitor or track acknowledgments and co-authorship**? If so, what role should WHO and others play in such a system?

The background paper for this thematic session can be found [here](#)

WHO BioHub System



Concluding remarks

<https://www.who.int/initiatives/who-biohub/>

WHO Secretariat can be reached for any further inputs at:
biohub@who.int