WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit: Towards health and well-being for all
17 and 18 August 2023, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

About the Summit

WHO is convening the Traditional Medicine Global Summit on 17 and 18 August 2023 in India, to look anew at vast potential and applications of traditional medicine amidst important challenges and opportunities to achieve universal health coverage and well-being for people and the planet. This will be the first in a series of global summits on traditional medicine, which will be held bi-annually in different WHO regions. The 2023 Summit will take place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, alongside the G20 Health Ministerial meeting. It is organized by the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine and co-hosted by the Government of India, which holds the G20 presidency in 2023.

Why traditional medicine

Traditional and complementary medicine (T&CM)\(^1\) is well established in many parts of the world, where it plays an important role in the culture, health and well-being of many communities. In some countries, it represents a significant part of the health sector’s economy.

The 2018 Declaration of Astana on primary health care acknowledges the need to include traditional medicine knowledge and technologies in the delivery of primary health care, a cornerstone of health systems, in pursuit of health for all.

WHO acknowledges the contribution of T&CM to health, well-being, people-centred health care and universal health coverage and seeks to bring traditional medicine into the mainstream of health care, appropriately, effectively, and above all, safely.

Why the Summit

- **Traditional medicine has become a global phenomenon:** the demand is growing, with patients seeking greater agency and ownership of their health and well-being and seeking more compassionate and personalized health care.

- **Political momentum:** the demand from WHO Member States for stronger knowledge and evidence base on traditional medicine to guide their policy-making, combined with the linkages with G20 and forthcoming High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage at the United Nations General Assembly can help secure the highest-level political commitment on advancing the agenda on traditional, complementary and integrative medicine (TCIM)

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\(^1\) Traditional and complementary medicine (T&CM) is an integral health resource recognized since the Declaration of Alma-Ata in 1978. The 2018 Declaration of Astana on primary health care in 2018 reaffirms this role.
• **There is more interest in learning and discovering**, and the openness to look anew at traditional medicine, its contributions to breakthrough medical discoveries and its vast potential and applications in health and medicine.

• **The application of new technologies in health and medicine**, such as genomics, artificial intelligence, ethnopharmacology, can open new frontiers of knowledge on traditional medicine, with important implications for health and well-being.

• **The rise of wellness industry**, building off traditional medicine in response to a growing interest of consumers in services that emphasize physical and mental health and well-being, highlights the need for a collaboration and new partnership for health and well-being economy.