

Beijing Declaration of 2024 World Conference on Traditional Medicine

We, the participants of the 2024 World Conference on Traditional Medicine under the theme of “Diversity, Inheritance and Innovation: Traditional Medicine for All”, held in Beijing, China, on 3 and 4 December 2024, acknowledge the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992); the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS, 2005); the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005); the United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007); the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (2022), and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources, and Associated Traditional Knowledge (2024).

We recall the resolution World Health Assembly (WHA) 62.13 on traditional medicine (TM), which urges Member States to consider adopting and implementing the Beijing Declaration on TM, and the resolution WHA67.18 on TM which urges to adapt, adopt and implement the World Health Organization (WHO) TM strategy: 2014 – 2023.

We reaffirm global commitments related to TM, as noted in the Declaration of Alma-Ata (1978), the Declaration of Astana on Primary Health Care (PHC, 2018), the UN General Assembly Political Declarations on Universal Health Coverage (UHC, 2019 and 2023), WHA resolutions and decisions on TM, and WHO Fourteenth General Program of Work

2025-2028.

We contributed to the conference theme, focusing on promoting the TM cross-culture and cross-sector value, TM universal accessibility and equity, TM safety, effectiveness and environmental sustainability through harmonization and collaboration, protection and capitalization, innovation and integration for achieving the highest attainable health and well-being, UHC and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We reached the following consensus as evidence-informed outcomes of the Beijing Declaration of 2024 World Conference on TM:

We recognize that:

1. TM is an important carrier of excellent traditional culture, playing a significant role in promoting mutual learning among civilizations and safeguarding people's health. TM is deeply rooted in interconnected human and environmental health. It supports well-being and biodiversity through sustainable practices and promotes people-centered, culturally respectful care aligned with PHC.

2. Equity is central to the UN 2030 Agenda, ensuring TM services are accessible, affordable, acceptable, and of high quality for all. Transparent information on TM is essential for safe, informed health choices and shared decision-making.

3. Evidence-Based is necessary for TM's safety and effectiveness. Decisions on TM should draw from both scientific and traditional evidence, with more data needed to strengthen its role in healthcare alongside biomedicine.

4. TM's complex, cross-cultural nature requires specialized research methods, with digital and Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies offering new possibilities for enhancing TM research and health care services,

including self-care.

5. Effective regulatory mechanisms, emphasizing patient safety and practitioner qualifications, are essential to protect the public from unsafe TM products and practices.

6. The integration of safe and effective TM into health systems will play a key role in the reorienting of health care services and health systems. TM can be integrated into all the building blocks of a health system, covering all levels of health care across the care continuum and life course.

7. Strong political commitment and policies are critical to support the integration of safe and effective TM. Coordinated and well-resourced TM health care services, alongside professional education, are key to achieving people-centered care.

We agree to take the following actions:

8. Promote TM concepts, knowledge and practices to assist in integrating human, animal and environmental health. Actively coordinate and collaborate across multiple sectors, agencies and disciplines not only related to health care, but also other areas such as culture, education, agriculture, environment, intellectual property, trade and social protection. Engage TM contribution in the achievement of multiple SDGs targets.

9. Support the establishment and implementation of an international TM priority research agenda focusing on rigorous and high-impact scientific research with agreements on key outcome measures. Scale up the efforts in mobilizing more financial and technical resources for research to enhance the evidence base of TM. Promote transparent and ethical practices including clinical trial registration in TM research and evidence-informed decision making. Strengthen data banks to support evidence production and implementation. Enhance the capacity building for the

involvement of TM practitioners in the co-design of research projects.

10. Integrate TM and biomedicine, and explain TM through modern science and technology for identifying and applying TM evidence. It is also an important approach for achieving whole-person health and well-being. Exploring the models for the integration needs to be encouraged and more researches conducted through the collaboration of both TM and biomedicine researchers and practitioners should be supported.

11. Explore innovative approaches and tools to TM research that are appropriate to the unique characteristics of TM knowledge and practices such as complex and holistic interventions, including consideration of the use of complexity science, system biology, big data and real-world data approaches, as well as interdisciplinary collaboration. Maximize the rational use of advanced technologies such as AI for developing appropriate and innovative approaches to research on TM.

12. Expand international regulatory collaboration and cooperation for achieving equitable access to TM products as an essential outcome of balanced regulatory mechanisms and oversight. Implement appropriate regulatory mechanism for ensuring sustainable production and supply of TM products. Contribute the norms and standards setting and implementation including the WHO International Herbal Pharmacopeia.

13. Adapt regulatory frameworks to different forms of TM practices and practitioners including appropriate standards for educational programs, certifications and licensing requirements and balancing frameworks to inter-professional collaboration and coordination.

14. Promote the formulation of political commitments and policy frameworks for the safe and effective integration of TM into health care services and health systems including policy frameworks for educating

practitioners of both TM and biomedicine to promote mutual understanding, communication and collaboration. Facilitate the integration of TM and biomedicine as appropriate to each country to provide users with the seamless care they need to achieve the shared goal of people-centered care especially in PHC. Actively explore and share models of the appropriate integration for achieving UHC.

15. We urge governments, health and education administrative departments, as well as the private sectors, to increase investments in funding and human resources for the cultivation of talent in TM, encompassing academic education, apprenticeship training, and various types of professional development. These efforts shall aim to enhance the overall quality of practitioners in TM and foster a greater number of qualified professionals in this field.

16. Protect the TM knowledge of all its custodians. Promote inclusive approaches and models for benefit-sharing of TM knowledge and capitalize its potential to health and well-being.

17. Empower individuals, families and communities to advocate for policies that promote and protect their health and well-being through the use of TM knowledge and practice, and act as co-developers of health and social services.

18. Strengthen the international exchanges and collaboration, build networks and platforms for policy makers, TM professionals, community leaders, and private sectors for the collective contribution to qualified and sustainable advancement of TM health care and herbal medicines industries across the world.

19. Encourage initiation of more bilateral and multilateral international programs on capacity building for TM policymakers and

professionals in the most needed countries and groups to leave no one behind in the process towards achieving the UN SDGs targets at the global level.

Call for actions

- We, the participants, pledge to support and maximize our contribution to the finalization and implementation of the new WHO TM Strategy 2025-2034 for achieving its goal and strategic objectives.

- Promoting TM is a shared responsibility. We urge all relevant stakeholders to join us in harnessing the potential contribution of TM to UHC.