

# WHO Science Council Meeting

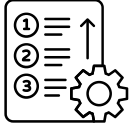
Geneva, Switzerland  
29-30 June 2023

## Visual summary





# Meeting objectives



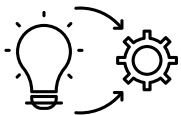
Identify priority topics for WHO and the Science Council



Discuss ways of working for the Council over the next two years



Introduce the role of science at WHO and how to engage with teams across the organisation



Discuss implementation of recommendations from Genomics and mRNA reports





# Introductory session

- Welcome remarks by WHO Chief Scientist, Dr. Jeremy Farrar, and Science Council Chair, Prof. Harold Varmus
- Remarkable time for science and medicine; huge opportunities for a positive impact on global health
- Need to ensure equitable access of benefits of science to all through greater WHO presence and efforts within countries





# Key scientific priorities and areas of focus across WHO

- Assistant Director Generals (ADGs) presented an overview of WHO's areas of work, key aims, and research efforts
- Member states are looking to WHO for guidance on global health challenges and opportunities, such as climate change and artificial intelligence
- ADGs encouraged to think about how the Science Council can add value to their work







# Key scientific priorities and areas of focus across WHO





# Update on the Genomics workstream

- Implementation of recommendations from the first Science Council report on Genomics
- New Technical Advisory Group on Genomics (TAG-G) being convened; open call for experts currently live
- WHO is appointing new regional genomics focal points to support impact of recommendations in countries
- International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN) presented by ADG Chikwe Ihekweazu







# Next priorities and ways of working

WHO Chief Scientist expressed intent for next Science Council report to be focused on broad over-arching topics, for example

- Science agenda to address health inequity
- Artificial intelligence and big data
- Implementation science and evidence-based interventions
- Information technologies and digital health
- Climate change impact on public health in LMICs





# Research at WHO

- Introduction to the Research for Health Department
- Introduction to WHO special research programmes:
  - Human Reproduction Programme
  - Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research
  - TDR: For research on diseases of poverty







# Harnessing scientific advances and emerging trends

- Presentation of horizon scan on promising emerging technologies
- Examples on how WHO engages with emerging trends
- Discussion on enablers and risk for highest ranking technologies and scientific advances over the next 5, 10 or 20 years





# Shortlisting of next priorities, conclusion and wrap up

- Next Council report to focus on information technology and digital health, including components of implementation science and equitable access to emerging technologies
- Closing remarks by WHO Director General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus





**WHO/SCI/RFH/2023.08**

**© World Health Organization 2023.**

**Some rights reserved.**

**This work is available under the  
CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence**