



WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy

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Foreword

Across the world, traditional medicine (TM) is either the mainstay of health care delivery or serves as a complement to it. In some countries, traditional medicine or non-conventional medicine may be termed complementary medicine (CM). The WHA resolution on Traditional Medicine (WHA62.13), adopted in 2009, requested the WHO Director-General to update the *WHO Traditional medicine strategy 2002-2005*, based on countries' progress and current new challenges in the field of traditional medicine. The *WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014-2023* thus reappraises and builds on the *WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2002-2005*, and sets out the course for TM and CM (T&CM) in the next decade.

T&CM is an important and often underestimated part of health care. T&CM is found in almost every country in the world and the demand for its services is increasing. TM, of proven quality, safety, and efficacy, contributes to the goal of ensuring that all people have access to care. Many countries now recognize the need to develop a cohesive and integrative approach to health care that allows governments, health care practitioners and, most importantly, those who use health care services, to access T&CM in a safe, respectful, cost-efficient and effective manner. A global strategy to foster its appropriate integration, regulation and supervision will be useful to countries wishing to develop a proactive policy towards this important - and often vibrant and expanding - part of health care.

Much has changed since the previous global strategy was published in 2002.

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