



Committee: World's Health Organization

Topic: The use of traditional medicine in the 21st century

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WHO was created on April 7th, 1948, there are now more than 196 members. Its objective is to ensure a healthy future for everyone. We fight against diseases like influenza, HIV, cancer, and heart disease. We are also concerned about the food and water people consume, all the medicines we use and the air we breathe. We try to help those in need by focusing on covering basic needs: making medicines and health products more accessible. We also fight for mental health awareness. Treating and trying to eliminate high-impact communicable diseases and preventing noncommunicable diseases.

On this occasion, we will be talking about the use of traditional medicine in the 21st century. These practices are affordable and cheap, but there is not enough research to know if they are effective.

Traditional medicine involves all the practices, skills, theories and beliefs from indigenous cultures, whether they have an explanation or not, used to prevent, diagnose or cure diseases. We can also find complementary medicines that are a set of health practices that are not part of a country's traditional medicine and they are not

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fully integrated into healthcare systems.

Nowadays such practices are mostly used for the prevention of chronic diseases. Traditional medicine may be more affordable than most medicines, but it should be regulated. The main challenges WHO faces right now are the lack of research data and the financial support for this research, and a lack of mechanisms to monitor the safety of these practices. Also, it is hard to control traditional and conventional medicines (T&CM) providers, since they may not have enough education or training, monitor their advertisements and claims, as well as the safety of their products.

Every country has its own regulations for T&CM, some of them better than others. Thankfully more and more countries have implemented national policies. In 1999 only 25 countries had a national policy concerning T&CM this number has increased to 98 countries that have national policies. the African region is the region with the highest percentage of countries that have a policy concerning T&CM, with 85%, the western pacific region 63% followed by the eastern Mediterranean region with 43%. While in America only 31% and in Europe barely 21% of countries have policies.

Besides the problems in regulation, there is a lack of investment in research of these techniques. The United States of America has been the most important investor so far, having invested 366 million US dollars in 2016.

WHO is implementing the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014-2023. Some of its objectives are the integration of T&CM into the health systems of WHO members,

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producing guidelines to set international standards, promoting investigation and research.

WHO has implemented strategic objectives with strategic actions that are in process of implementation. The first objective is to build knowledge for the management of T&CM through national policies, to understand and recognize their potential, to build up the knowledge base, create evidence and sustain resources. The second objective is to reinforce quality, safety, and use of T&CM by regulating products, and practices. Its strategic actions are to recognize the importance of these regulations and to develop practices and practitioner regulations. The third objective is to encourage universal health coverage by using the potential of T&CM to improve health services and helping consumers of T&CM make the right health choices.

This is a serious topic delegates and we should do our best to find the best regulations and guidelines and how to implement them in every country. We should look for ways to invest money on the research of T&CM, so we can find all the benefits and bad consequences that these medicines can provide. Also, we need solutions on how can we control the T&CM providers. Another important point is to make sure that our strategies are implemented worldwide.

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