Overview of the draft WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025-2034

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Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine Unit
TCI/IHS/UHL/HQ/WHO

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WHO's Journey with Traditional Medicine

1976

WHO WG for the promotion & development of traditional medicine

1st Global survey (2002)

2nd Global survey (2012)

2014

WHA resolution (WHA 67.18) & TM strategy

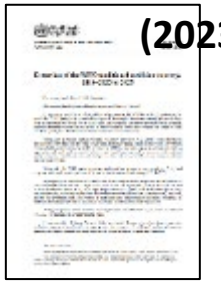
2019

A chapter of TM in ICD 11 (WHA 72.15)

2022

WHO establishes Global Centre for Traditional Medicine

3rd Global TM survey (2023)



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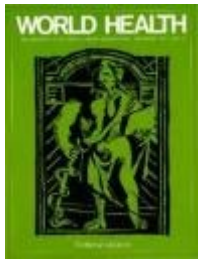

1978

Declaration of Alma-Ata on PHC incl. traditional practitioners

2002

WHO TM strategy 2002-2005

2018

Declaration of Astana on PHC includes traditional knowledge & medicines

2019

UNGA Political declaration of the high-level meeting on UHC (A/ RES / 74 /2)

2023

WHA resolution (WHA76(20)) : extension & development of new WHO TM Strategy 2025 - 2034

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WHA76(20) in May 2023: **WHO strategy on traditional medicine**

Decided to request the Director-General:

1. to extend the WHO traditional medicine strategy: 2014–2023 until 2025;

2. to develop, guided by the WHO traditional medicine strategy: 2014 - 2023 and in consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders, a **draft new global traditional medicine strategy for the period 2025 - 2034** and to submit the strategy for consideration by the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly in 2025, through the Executive Board at its 156th session

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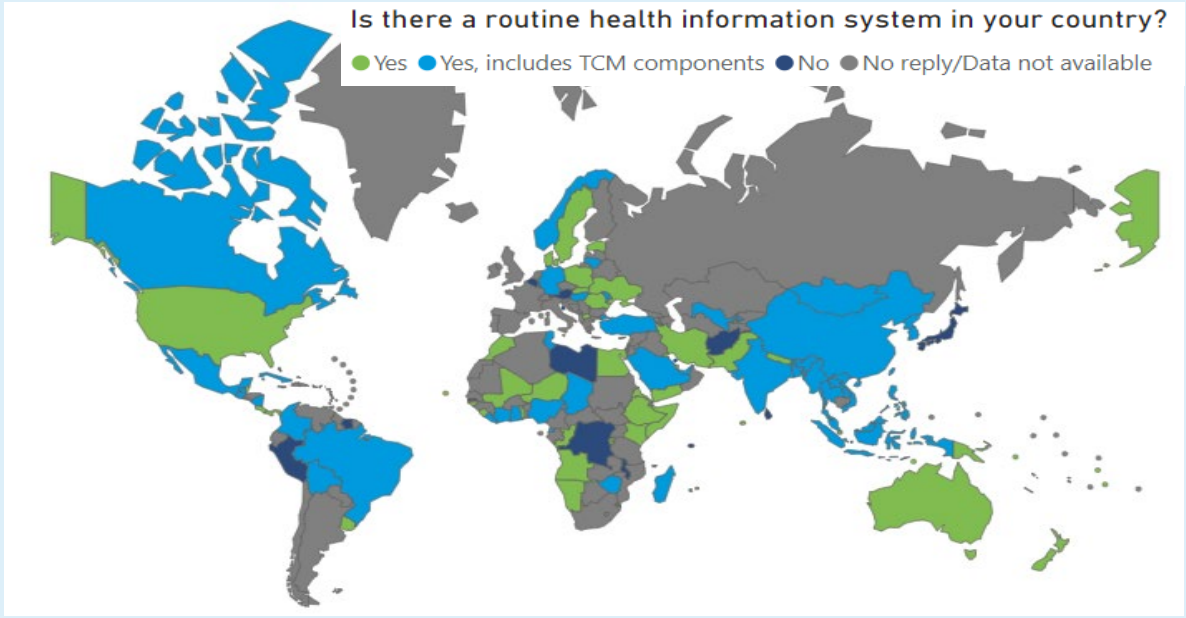
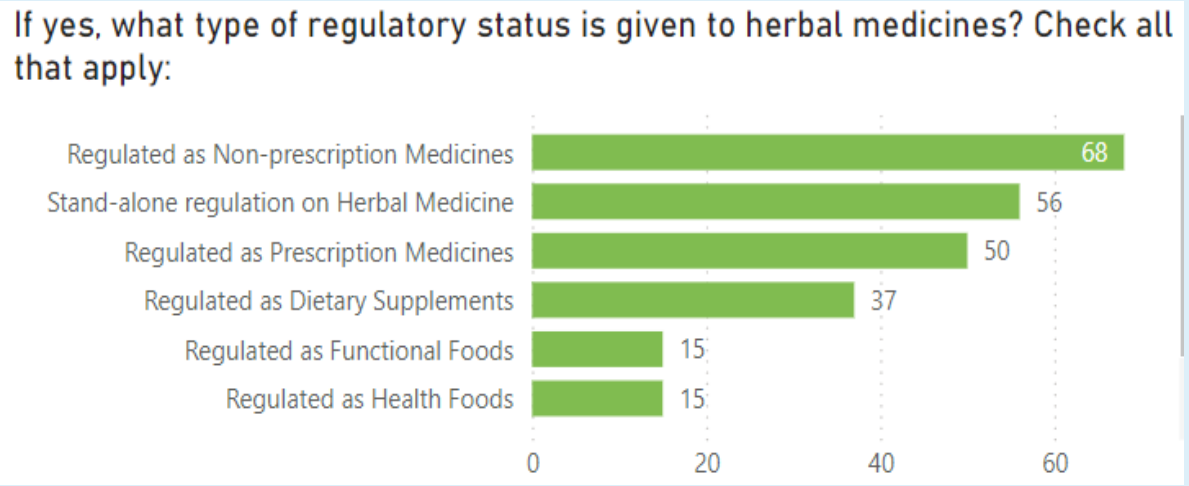
Global TCIM landscape (3rd Global Survey in 2023)

- Policy: 90 Member States
- Regulation of herbal medicines: 116 Member States
- University education: 58 Member States
- Research institute for T&CM: 57 Member States
- National health promotion program: 43 Member States
- Routine health information system: 40 Member States





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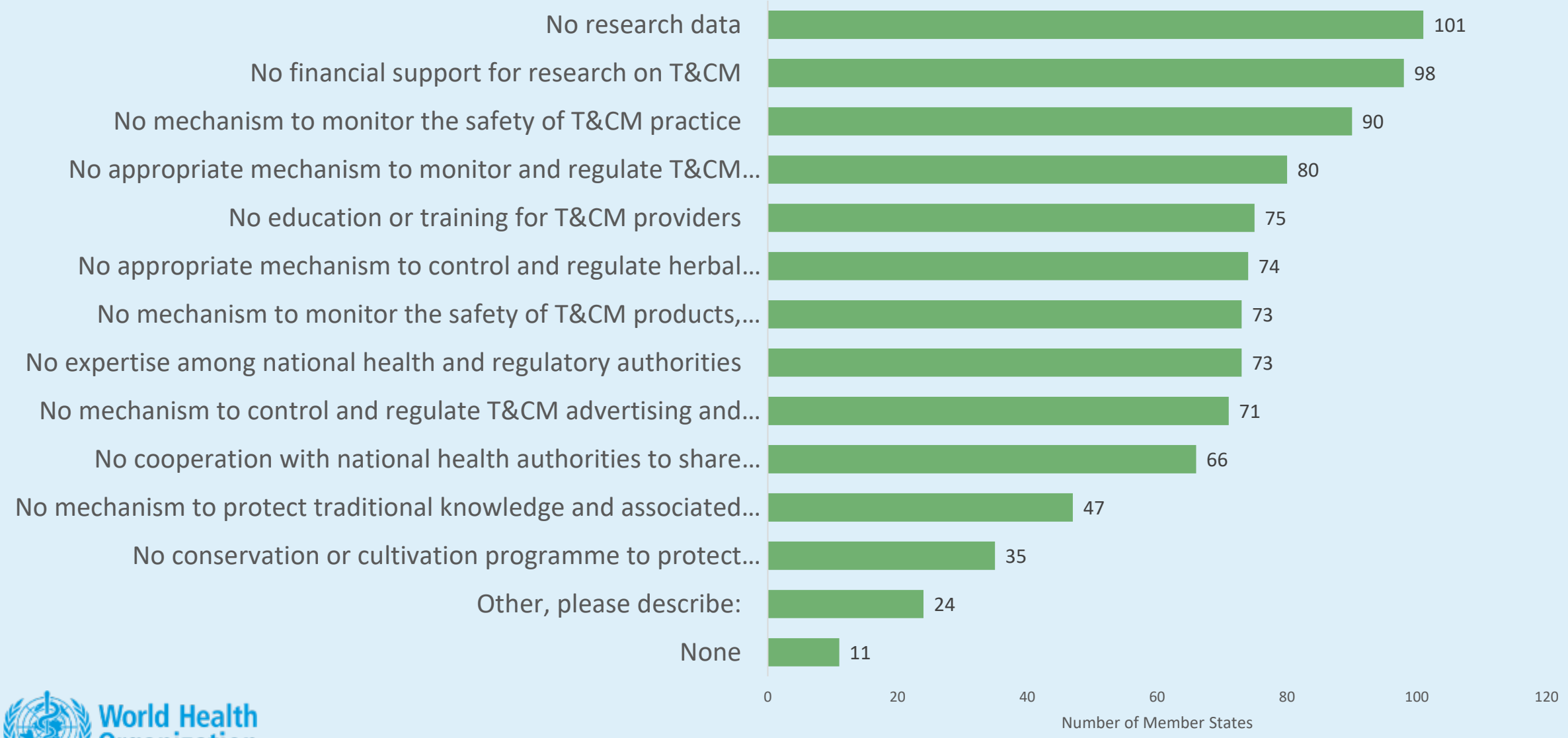
Difficulties faced by Member States (2023)



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OUTLINE OF NEW STRATEGY

WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy: 2025 – 2034

Traditional Medicine **(TM)**

- Sum total of the **knowledge, skill and practices** based on the theories, beliefs and experiences of different cultures as well as **scientific and professional expertise**, used in the diagnosis, the prevention and treatment of illness and to promote health and well-being.

Complementary Medicine**(CM)**

- It is used **interchangeably** for **"traditional medicine"** in some countries, refers to a broad set of health care practices that are not part of a country's **mainstream medicine,** and plays **a supportive role in health care.**

Integrative Medicine **(IM)**

- It is an **interdisciplinary** and **evidence-based approach** aimed at achieving **whole-person** health and well-being by using a **combination** or fusion of biomedical, and traditional and/or complementary medical knowledge, skills and practices; provides **holistic care** spanning the care continuum; and may involve various health care providers and institutions.

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WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy: 2025 - 2034

Subtitle

Towards universal access to safe, effective, and people-centered traditional, complementary, and integrative medicine for health and well-being, *respecting Indigenous People's rights*

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WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy: 2025 - 2034

Vision

Universal access to safe, effective, and people-centred TCIM for the health and well-being of all

Goal

To maximize the contribution of TCIM to the highest attainable standard of health and well-being of individuals and societies for the achievement of UHC and the SDGs

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WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy: 2025 - 2034

Guiding Principles

1. Evidence-informed decision-making
2. Holism and health
3. Sustainability and One Health
4. The right to health and autonomy
5. Indigenous Peoples' rights
6. Culture and health
7. People-centred care and community engagement
8. Integrated health services
9. Health equity

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WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy: 2025 - 2034

Objectives

1. Optimize the **cross-sector value** of TCIM and empower communities through inclusive approaches.
2. Strengthen the **evidence base** for TCIM.
3. Support the provision of quality and safe TCIM through appropriate **regulatory mechanisms**.
4. **Integrate** TCIM into health systems to support the achievement of UHC.

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Four strategic objectives and nine strategic directions

Strategic Objective 1
Optimize the cross-sector value of TCIM and empower communities through inclusive approaches.

Direction 1.1:
Include TCIM in **cross-sector policies and action plans** for health, well-being societies, One Health and SDGs.

Direction 1.2:
Develop **inclusive approaches and models** for the protection, access and benefit-sharing of TMK.

Direction 1.3:
Support **informed choices** of the public with respect to safe and effective TCIM use and self-care.

Strategic Objective 2
Strengthen the evidence base for TCIM.

Direction 2.1:
Facilitate **high-quality** TCIM research through increased resource allocation.

Direction 2.2:
Explore the most **appropriate research approach** and maximize the rational utilization of technology for TCIM.

Strategic Objective 3
Support the provision of quality and safe TCIM through appropriate regulatory mechanisms.

Direction 3.1:
Provide appropriate regulatory mechanisms for **TCIM products** that are sustainably produced and supplied.

Direction 3.2:
Provide appropriate regulatory mechanisms for **TCIM practices and practitioners**.

Strategic Objective 4
Integrate TCIM into health systems to support the achievement of UHC.

Direction 4.1:
Incorporate TCIM into national and subnational **health-related frameworks and policies** for the integration of safe and effective TCIM into health systems.

Direction 4.2:
Facilitate the **integration** of safe and effective TCIM into health systems and services across the care continuum and life course.

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WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy: 2025 - 2034

Implementation

1. General comments on implementation
2. Monitoring, measuring and reporting

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New WHO TM Global Strategy

- In consultation with Member States and stakeholders
- The 3rd WHO global survey on traditional, complementary, and integrative medicine (**May -Nov 2023**)
- **2025** Executive Board at its **156th** session
- **2025** Submit the strategy for consideration by the **78th** World Health Assembly

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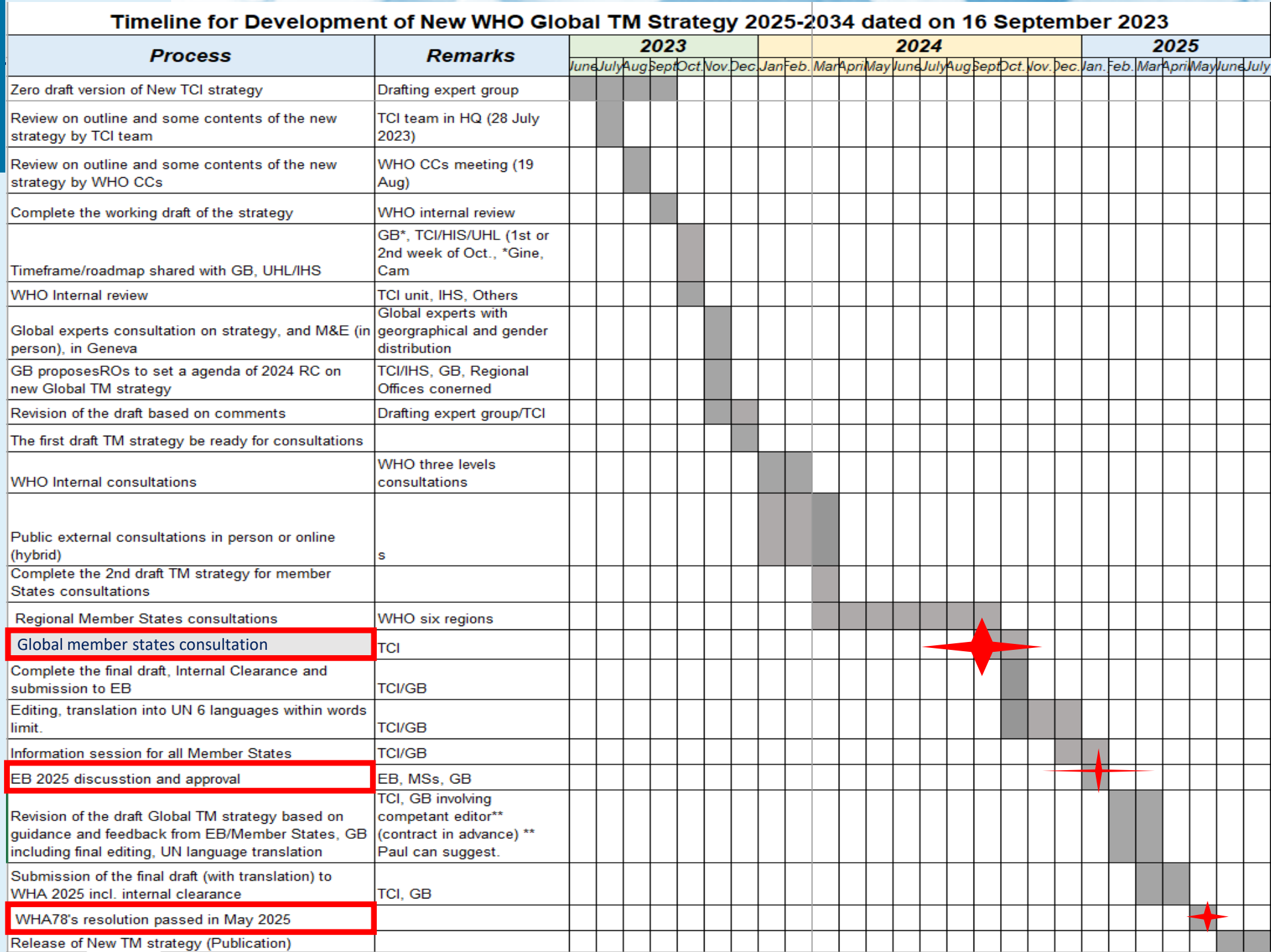
Timeline for Development of New WHO Global TM Strategy 2025-2034 dated on 16 September 2023

Process	Remarks
Zero draft version of New TCI strategy	Drafting expert group
Review on outline and some contents of the new strategy by TCI team	TCI team in HQ (28 July 2023)
Review on outline and some contents of the new strategy by WHO CCs	WHO CCs meeting (19 Aug)
Complete the working draft of the strategy	WHO internal review
Timeframe/roadmap shared with GB, UHL/IHS	GB*, TCI/HIS/UHL (1st or 2nd week of Oct., *Gine, Cam
WHO Internal review	TCI unit, IHS, Others
Global experts consultation on strategy, and M&E (in person), in Geneva	Global experts with georgraphical and gender distribution
GB proposesROs to set a agenda of 2024 RC on new Global TM strategy	TCI/IHS, GB, Regional Offices conerned
Revision of the draft based on comments	Drafting expert group/TCI
The first draft TM strategy be ready for consultations	
WHO Internal consultations	WHO three levels consultations
Public external consultations in person or online (hybrid)	s
Complete the 2nd draft TM strategy for member States consultations	
Regional Member States consultations	WHO six regions
Global member states consultation	TCI
Complete the final draft, Internal Clearance and submission to EB	TCI/GB
Editing, translation into UN 6 languages within words limit.	TCI/GB
Information session for all Member States	TCI/GB
EB 2025 discusstion and approval	EB, MSs, GB
Revision of the draft Global TM strategy based on guidance and feedback from EB/Member States, GB including final editing, UN language translation	TCI, GB involving competant editor** (contract in advance) ** Paul can suggest.
Submission of the final draft (with translation) to WHA 2025 incl. internal clearance	TCI, GB
WHA78's resolution passed in May 2025	
Release of New TM strategy (Publication)	



Questions and Answers

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Thank you

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