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SUMMARY OF THE PROGRAMME SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIVE EXPERT WORKING GROUP ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT: FINANCING AND COORDINATION

1. In line with Resolution WHA65.22, the Director-General was requested to hold an open-ended Member States meeting to thoroughly analyze the “Report of the consultative Expert Working Group (CEWG) on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination” and the feasibility of implementing the proposed recommendations. After the initial review of the CEWG Report by the first meeting of the Programme Subcommittee (9–13 July 2012), the Regional Director communicated to all Member States to conduct national consultations which would inform a regional consultation, whose recommendations would be examined by the PSC.
2. During the Programme Subcommittee (PSC) meeting, it was reported that only eight countries had submitted the reports of their national consultative meetings. The regional consultative meeting took place on 4-5 October 2012 and discussed a shortlist of nine out of a total of 16 recommendations which were noted as being most relevant to the African Region. The regional consultative meeting further selected five recommendations which were feasible in the context of the African Region. The recommendations considered feasible include open approaches to Research and Development (R&D) through competitive research platforms and milestones; funding mechanisms through specific taxes; pooling resources for R&D in disease areas; strengthening R&D capacity and technology transfer; and coordination of research through putting in place a global Research and Development observatory.
3. The PSC unanimously recognized the importance of research for countries in the Region. The PSC emphasized the need to reinforce country human resource capacities for research, to allocate adequate financial resources for research activities and to urgently establish functional mechanisms to coordinate research development including ethics. The role of WHO in supporting countries in their research development efforts was highlighted.
4. The PSC emphasized that the subject is a developmental issue and could be further addressed through regional integration initiatives. It was further indicated that important issues like the protection of intellectual property rights, financing of research in line with the implementation of the Algiers Declaration, and support towards research career development needed to be considered.

5. The PSC also agreed with the recommendations made by the regional consultative meeting including those considered feasible in the African Region. The PSC made the following additional recommendations for consideration by the Sixty-second Regional Committee:

- (i) Countries should speed up the process of implementing the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property.
- (ii) All countries were encouraged to participate in the open-ended meeting of Member States that would analyse the report and the feasibility of the recommendations proposed by the CEWG to be held from 26 to 28 November 2012 at the Executive Board Room at WHO headquarters in Geneva.
- (iii) Countries that had not conducted and submitted reports for their national consultations were encouraged to do so.
- (iv) The ways and means of implementing the recommendations of the CEWG should be further elaborated in order to provide a clear way forward.

6. Furthermore, the PSC noted that engaging in the dialogue around the adoption of an international treaty would require a more comprehensive analysis of the CEWG recommendations and countries should also consider other feasible mechanisms.