

Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development (CEWG): financing and coordination

Technical Briefing

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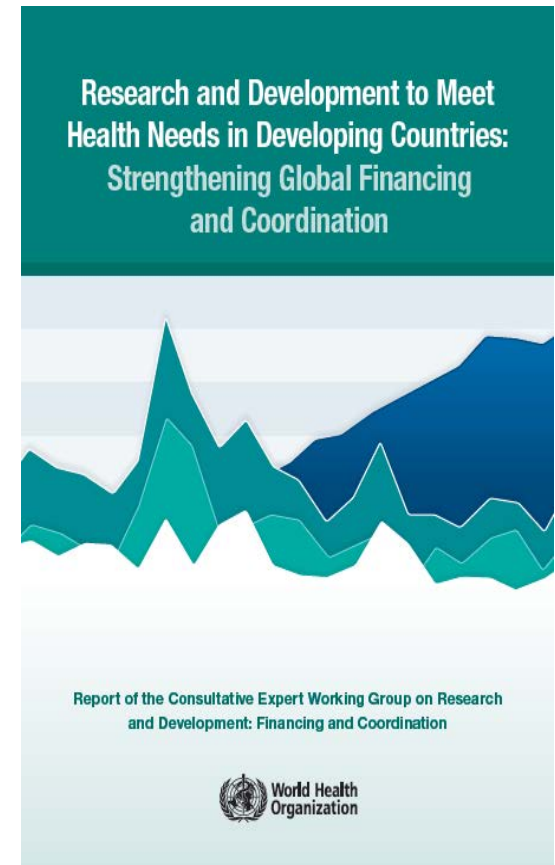
Division of Information, Evidence, Research and Innovation



CEWG

Set up in 2010 by WHA63 in response to concerns that insufficient resources were being devoted to target diseases which disproportionately affect people in developing countries.

– *Report published in April 2012 for WHA65*



Research and Development: Financing and Coordination, Timeline

1975	Concept of “essential medicines” introduced
1990	Commission on Health Research for Development
2001	Commission on Macroeconomics and Health
2003	Commission on Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation and Public Health (CIPRH)
2004	Ministerial Summit on Health Research
2006	Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property (IGWG)
2008	Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property (GSPA-PHI) establishes Expert Working Group (EWG)
2010	Bamako Call to Action on Research for Health
2012	Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development (CEWG)
2012	CEWG report in April 2012 for WHA65
2012	National and regional consultations to feed into open-ended global meeting (26-28 November 2012)
2013	Proposals for options to be presented WHA66, through the 132 nd Executive Board

CEWG Report – main themes

The report focuses on:

- (i) **mechanisms** for stimulating innovation for health products and technologies related to Type II and Type III diseases and the specific R&D needs of developing countries in relation to Type I diseases
- (ii) altering the **relationship** between public health, innovation and intellectual property rights and their governance.

Report suggests **two broad ways forward**:

- Free open market competition in production
- De-linking R&D costs on prices of products

CEWG Recommendations 1/4

(1) Limitations of current R&D model and IPR regime

- R&D costs should be de-linked from the price of products;
- Health R&D should be seen as a global public health good with both inputs and benefits;
- There is a need for **greater technology transfer** to, and **capacity development** in, developing countries.

CEWG Recommendations 2/4

(2) Financing of future health R&D

- All countries **should commit to spending at least 0.01% of GDP** on government-funded R&D;
- Between 20-50% be directed into a pooled fund for addressing developing country needs;
- Developed countries should consider committing 0.15%-0.2% of GDP to government-funded health research; developing countries to commit 0.05%-0.1%.

CEWG Recommendations 3/4

(3) Coordination

- A **Global Health R&D Observatory under the auspices of WHO** should be created to collect and analyse relevant data, to analyse lessons learned and propose options.
- **Advisory mechanisms** (also to support an Observatory), comprising member states from developed and developing countries, should be set up manage the funding and execution of R&D.

CEWG Recommendations 4/4

(4) Global framework

- A global framework on health R&D, and specifically a **legally binding instrument**, is needed.
- A **convention on Global Health R&D**, which would help to secure appropriate funding and coordination for health should be agreed.

Resolution WHA 65.22

REQUESTS **regional committees to discuss** at their 2012 meetings the report of the CEWG in the context of the implementation of the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property in order **to contribute to concrete proposals and actions.**



Post CEWG report – next steps in the WHO European Region

- As per Resolution WHA 65.22, **national consultations** are underway in the European Region.
- From 30 July to 24 August 2012, the Regional Office held an **online region-wide consultation**.
- European Advisory Committee on Health Research (**EACHR**) **delivered a statement to the Regional Director** (August 2012)
- Regional Committee 62 discusses CEWG as an agenda item under ‘matters arising’, with an accompanying technical briefing.

Web-based regional consultation

Feedback requested around **4 questions** around the 4 categories of CEWG recommendations:

- 1. For each category are there elements of the report you see as feasible and in what way could they be pursued?*
- 2. Do you have any suggestions for strengthening each recommendation or for modified or alternative options?*
- 3. Other comments on either the report or issues in general?*
- 4. How can the CEWG work be taken forward concretely, both regionally and globally?*

Regional Consultation Results (1/4)

Overall feedback (5 Member States)

- Responses complimented the good work of the CEWG and the report.
- Acknowledgement that current IPR rules and R&D model need review – now good time to develop specific mechanisms and incentives.
- Before tangible spending commitments or binding coordination mechanism agreed, options need to be explored.
- Many individual recommendations / options could be pursued outside of a binding framework.

Regional Consultation Results (2/4)

Select specific feedback (financing)

- Potential agreement in principle to a fixed GDP commitment, but any action is premature; at a minimum gaps for priority areas need identifying first
- First, existing data need to be better validated
- GDP commitment doubtful; proposal for a political declaration
- Obligatory contribution deemed “unacceptable”
- Use of pooled funds: both yes and no answers given

Overall: Scope for increased national contributions, but on a voluntary basis with appropriate monitoring

Regional Consultation Results (3/4)

Select specific feedback (coordination)

- Support for WHO's continued lead role in global coordination and management of health R&D; better leveraging of existing initiatives and structures.
- WHO as lead institution, but coordination needs to involve other actors given the multi-sectoral nature of the proposals

Overall: Agreed need for improved coordination and a new or revised structure / platform, but with a nuanced scope vis-à-vis the CEWG proposals.

Regional Consultation Results (4/4)

Select specific feedback (convention)

- Scope for convention needs to be agreed first; suggestion to include a broad public health focus
- Doubtful that this is practically feasible

Overall: No immediate support for the current CEWG proposal, but options to explore via the coordination mechanism and countries engaging on a voluntary basis with appropriate monitoring

EACHR Statement on the CEWG

“The EACHR has reviewed the report of the CEWG. It **congratulates the CEWG for producing a thorough analysis** of relevant issues, a logical set of criteria for analysis, and a detail critique of the options. The **EACHR agrees with the analysis** and concludes that the **recommendations are justified on the basis of the evidence**. The EACHR recognises that national decisions will involve reconciling the often competing interests of different branches of government including, but not limited to health, education, trade, finance, and commercial organisations. The EACHR requests that the **Regional Director remind member states to ensure that they promote a participatory approach and include all relevant stakeholders in their ongoing consultations.**”

Where do we go from here?

“How can the CEWG work being taken forward concretely, both regionally and globally?” (Q4 from web-based consultation):

- Establishment of working group to develop specific proposals *by mid-October 2012*;
- Establishment of drafting group at this RC for proposals and action plan or potential draft resolution *at this RC*?
- Establishment of mechanism to incorporate feedback from national consultations?
- Other?