

The **second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine**, held in New Delhi, India, on 17–19 December 2025, has the theme of “Restoring balance: The science and practice of health and well-being”. The Summit aligns with the [Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034](#), which recognizes Traditional Medicine as a living science that contributes to universal health coverage, health equity and sustainability. The Summit serves as a global platform to accelerate implementation of the new strategy, foster partnerships, and translate pledges and commitments into concrete action.



For more information, contact: tmcentre@who.int

Parallel session 3.C

Regulation of Traditional Medicine products

Plenary 3 and associated parallel sessions will address the evidence-based integration of Traditional Medicine into health systems through the vision of the Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034. Sessions will examine how alignment with global frameworks, patient safety and informed health choices, regulatory coherence and workforce capacity can promote balance for individuals, society and the planet.

This parallel session aims to advance the global dialogue on regulatory approaches in Traditional Medicine products to ensure quality, safety, efficacy and equitable access. Building on WHO’s work in governance and standard setting, the session will highlight the role of robust regulatory frameworks in safeguarding public health, fostering trust and supporting innovation. Discussions will focus on models for regulating Traditional Medicine products; mechanisms for market authorization and post-market surveillance; and strategies for addressing challenges such as cross-border trade, digital health applications and protection of traditional knowledge. By showcasing country experiences and emerging best practices, the session will identify pathways for strengthening regulatory systems that enable responsible integration of evidence-based Traditional Medicine into national health policies, aligned with universal health coverage, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034.

Rationale

Effective regulation of Traditional Medicine products is essential to ensure their safe, equitable and cost-effective contribution to health systems worldwide. Strong regulatory frameworks protect patients, uphold practitioner standards and build public trust while enabling responsible innovation and equitable access (1–3). Comparative analyses highlight persistent differences in how countries regulate Traditional Medicine products and evidence standards, underscoring the need for coherent and risk-based governance (4,5). This session will explore key regulatory challenges such as product quality, evidence generation, digital health applications and cross-border trade to strengthen governance systems that safeguard health while promoting integration of evidence-based Traditional Medicine into universal health coverage (6). In alignment with the Summit theme, restoring balance, the discussion will emphasize safety and harmony at the individual level (ensuring informed, safe care using quality-assured Traditional Medicine products), at the societal level (strengthening trust and consistency in health systems) and at the environmental level (supporting sustainable use of natural resources and protection of traditional knowledge). This session will also draw on international initiatives that advance regulatory capacity and coherence, including the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge, the WHO International Regulatory Cooperation for Herbal Medicines, the WHO Interregional Training Workshop, the WHO Global Benchmarking Tool for evaluation of national regulatory systems of Traditional Medicine products, and the WHO International Herbal Pharmacopoeia (7–10). The session directly supports the Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034, particularly its focus on regulation, evidence-based integration and cross-sector collaboration (2), while contributing to wider priorities of WHO and multilateral partners on universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Objectives

- Share lessons learned from country experiences on regulating Traditional Medicine products to ensure quality, safety, efficacy and equity.
- Explore new approaches for addressing emerging regulatory challenges, including digital trade, cross-border markets and sustainable resource use.
- Discuss policy implications and recommendations for strengthening national and regional regulatory systems in alignment with WHO strategies.
- Build consensus on collaborative next steps, with a focus on equity and inclusiveness – ensuring that regulatory frameworks safeguard vulnerable populations and protect traditional knowledge holders.

Guiding questions

1. **Strengthening governance and regulatory frameworks:** How can countries design practical models and pathways for regulating Traditional Medicine products that balance flexibility with consistency across diverse contexts?
2. **Quality, safety and accountability:** How can countries implement effective post-market surveillance, quality assurance and adverse event reporting systems for Traditional Medicine products?
3. **Integration into health systems:** Which regulatory approaches most effectively enable the safe integration of evidence-based Traditional Medicine into primary health care and universal health coverage, while aligning with national policies and ethical standards?
4. **Equity, inclusiveness and trust:** How do we guarantee equitable access to safe, affordable Traditional Medicine for vulnerable populations while protecting traditional knowledge and the rights of Indigenous and local communities?
5. **Cross-border and emerging challenges:** What governance solutions address digital health, e-commerce and cross-border trade in Traditional Medicine products, alongside fair intellectual property, benefit-sharing and biodiversity protection?
6. **Collaboration and capacity-building:** How can regional/international regulatory cooperation and partnerships with multilateral bodies and academia most effectively strengthen regulatory capacity for Traditional Medicine?

Session format

The proposed session format begins with the moderator's opening and then moves to the keynote presentation on advancing global dialogue on Traditional Medicine regulation, emphasizing quality, safety, efficacy and access. Following the keynote, the moderator will run a Slido-based quiz in which both the in-person and online audience can answer in real time. The moderator will then invite the panel to the stage, including the keynote speaker and five additional experts, for a discussion on strengthening regulatory frameworks through robust frameworks, best practices and innovation. The discussion will begin with a common question posed to all panellists, followed by rounds of theme-based questions that encourage cross-commentary and diverse perspectives. The moderator will then facilitate in-person and online audience participation. Panellists will conclude the session by proposing one to two actionable commitments for collaborative progress on Traditional Medicine regulation, with particular emphasis on equity and inclusiveness.

References

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