

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.



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## Plenary 3

### Reimagining health systems for balance, safety and resilience

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 plenary session will introduce the Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034 and outline its vision and priorities for advancing integration of Traditional Medicine into health systems in ways that are safe, efficient and inclusive, building on WHO’s conceptual tools and guidance. The proceedings will highlight regional and country experiences, particularly from South-East Asia and the Western Pacific, showcasing how Traditional Medicine is being incorporated into primary health care, supported by policy and legislative advances that drive integration at the national level. It will underscore the importance of robust regulatory frameworks and governance, including the role of the International Regulatory Cooperation for Herbal Medicines (IRCH) network in strengthening safety, quality and harmonization across countries.

### Rationale

Strategic Objective 3 of the Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034 focuses on integrating safe and effective Traditional Medicine into national health systems as a cornerstone of universal health coverage (1). This objective aligns with WHO strategies on integration and primary health care, and the UN General Assembly political declaration on universal health coverage (2–4). It is also consistent with the Summit theme – Restoring balance: The science and practice of health and well-being – by promoting holistic, people-centred and equitable approaches to health that acknowledge the interdependence of human and planetary well-being (5,6). Integrating Traditional Medicine across the continuum of care – from health promotion and disease prevention to treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care – strengthens primary health care as the foundation of universal health coverage (1,3,7). The strategy further underscores the need for strong regulatory frameworks to ensure Traditional Medicine services are safe, effective and accountable (1). Integrating Traditional Medicine within national health frameworks will help countries build resilient, inclusive and sustainable health systems that advance well-being for people and the planet.

### Objectives

- Introduce the Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034, providing an overview of the newly adopted strategy, its vision, priorities, and pathways for integration into health systems.
- Present WHO’s work and conceptual framework (8), sharing WHO’s initiatives and practical tools that support countries in integrating Traditional Medicine into national health systems.
- Showcase regional integration into primary health care, highlighting experiences, challenges and lessons from South-East Asia and Western Pacific countries in incorporating Traditional Medicine within primary health care.
- Highlight international regulatory collaboration, presenting the role of the IRCH network in strengthening regulation, ensuring safety and supporting effective integration.

## Guiding questions

1. **Strategy and vision:** The Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034 sets a bold vision for integration. From your perspective, what is the most urgent step countries should take to translate this vision into action?
2. **Integration into primary health care:** What practical models or examples best demonstrate how Traditional Medicine can be effectively integrated into primary health care without compromising safety and quality?
3. **Governance and regulation:** Regulation is central to ensuring trust in Traditional Medicine. How can countries strike the right balance between enabling access and safeguarding safety, quality and accountability?
4. **Data and evidence:** A Global Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCIM) dashboard and a reference list of TCIM indicators are now available. How can these tools help countries monitor outcomes and strengthen evidence for the integration of Traditional Medicine?
5. **Equity and rights:** How can the integration of Traditional Medicine both protect Indigenous knowledge and ensure equitable access for diverse populations, while contributing to universal health coverage?

## Session format

The proposed session format begins with a welcome and framing from the moderator, followed by a series of keynote presentations, including an introduction to the Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034, presentation of WHO's conceptual framework and tools for supporting countries with the integration of Traditional Medicine, an overview of national and regional experiences integrating Traditional Medicine into primary health care, and examination of the role of international regulatory cooperation through the IRCH network in strengthening safety and effective implementation. After each presentation, the speaker will remain on stage, gradually forming a full panel. The moderator will facilitate commentary across the speakers and will open the floor to the in-person and online audience for questions. As the discussion closes, speakers will reflect on key insights and explore specific action points for advancing the integration of Traditional Medicine into safe, efficient and inclusive health systems, highlighting opportunities for collaboration, policy innovation and strengthened governance across regions.

## References

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