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**Extract from report on
Conclusions and Recommendations
Seventh Meeting
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
STRATEGIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP FOR TUBERCULOSIS
(STAG-TB)**

**11-13 June, 2007
WHO Headquarters
Geneva, Switzerland**

The overall objectives of STAG-TB are:

1. To provide to the Director-General of WHO independent evaluation of the strategic, scientific and technical aspects of WHO's Tuberculosis Area of Work;
2. To review progress and challenges in WHO's pursuit of its TB-related core functions;
3. To review and make recommendations on committees, working groups etc.; and
4. To advise on priorities between possible areas of WHO activities.

The following extract from the report on the Seventh Meeting of STAG-TB (http://www.who.int/tb/events/stag_report_2007.pdf) provides the recommendations arising from review of WHO's role in, and contribution to, the Research Movement of the Stop TB Partnership (Session 8).

Session 8: WHO's role in, and contribution to, the Research Movement of the Stop TB Partnership

- STAG-TB recognizes the urgency and importance of promoting TB research across the entire continuum, including basic research, development of new tools and strategies, implementation research (including behavioral/social research), and research related to M&E.
- STAG-TB emphasizes the importance of TB research as a key part of the national health research system at country level, and as crucial to achieve the Stop TB



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Partnership's targets for 2015 linked to the Millennium Development Goals and to achieve the goal of TB elimination by 2050.

- STAG-TB therefore fully supports the Research Movement of the Stop TB Partnership with the goal to stimulate, support and expand research to accelerate progress towards the global elimination of TB by 2050, and endorses the proposed activities presented, in line with the following objectives:
 - a. To provide leadership and advocacy to mobilize increased resources to support a coherent and comprehensive global TB research agenda;
 - b. To provide a forum for TB research stakeholders (including funders and implementers) to coordinate plans and actions, with the result of ensuring that research needs are addressed, opportunities prioritised and gaps filled.

- STAG-TB welcomes the leadership role WHO is playing in the development of the Research Movement under the auspices of the Stop TB Partnership, and the close collaboration between WHO and the Partnership, and recognizes the relative advantages of the contribution of WHO including:
 - Its links with countries and representation of country needs,
 - Policy mandate and associated opportunities to identify research needs,
 - Role in technical collaboration, lead role in global TB M&E, and
 - Institutional commitment to promote research as articulated by the Director-General and expressed in the 2007 WHA resolution (WHA 60.19) "TB control: progress and long-term planning".

- STAG-TB welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the process of consultation in developing the Research Movement, under the auspices of the Stop TB Partnership, and requests its Chair, as a Permanent Member of the Stop TB Coordinating Board, to report to the next Board meeting (Berlin, 23-24 October 2007) on STAG-TB's conclusions and recommendations related to the Research Movement;

- **STAG-TB suggests to the Stop TB Partnership Coordinating Board** that, in the further development of the Research Movement, particular attention should be paid to the following points:
 - a. The importance of engaging a wide range of TB research stakeholders (including the end-users of TB research, e.g. NTP managers, and community groups), in addition to researchers and research funders (identified by



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mapping) and stakeholders in related research (including health systems and policy research, HIV research);

- b. The need to develop and promote the strongest possible case for increased investment in TB research across the continuum, building on the experience gained in promoting research through the activities of the Partnership's new tools Working Groups, and on the experience of the HIV/AIDS community;
- c. Intensifying engagement with funders of research, particularly those with the potential to substantially increase funding compared to current levels (e.g. European Commission);
- d. The opportunities that exist for the Stop TB Partnership Advocacy, Communication, and Social Mobilization (ACSM) Working Group to contribute to the Research Movement by using information and messages marshalled by the Research Movement to undertake advocacy for TB research, contribute to public awareness of TB research and promote community mobilization for research activities, such as community participation in clinical trials;
- e. The advantages of promoting (through the Partnership's Working Groups on new tools) the development of a wide range of technologies, including some that may be currently perceived as under-promoted but nevertheless potentially important;
- f. The benefits of advocating for long-term research funding to avoid the problems of short-term research investment cycles;
- g. The relative advantages of particular partners in different areas, e.g. the experience of the Global Forum for Health Research in tracking funding of research for diseases of poverty, and TDR's experience in research capacity development;
- h. The need to establish a task force to guide the further development of the Research Movement up to its launch (e.g. through a "Bellagio meeting") and beyond, and to advise on obtaining high-level commitment to support TB research.

STAG-TB recommends that in contributing to the Research Movement, WHO should:

- a. Use its experience gained from the development of WHO's overall research strategy (to be presented to the 2009 (62nd) World Health Assembly);



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- b. Reflect the research needs of countries badly affected by TB (e.g. the emerging need for research on infection control), develop guidance for how these countries can promote research for improved TB program performance, improve the availability and use of information derived from research;
- c. Support the development of operational research agendas by identifying the research needs that arise through the process of evidence-based policy formulation;
- d. Collaborate with the Inter-Governmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property to help stimulate TB research and development;
- e. Highlight gaps in progress in research and development, e.g. areas where regulatory issues need attention;
- f. Work closely with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to help countries develop grant applications that include funding for operational research;
- g. Exploit opportunities to raise the profile of TB research needs in high-level forums, e.g. 2008 Global Ministerial Forum on Health Research, Bamako;
- h. Develop a biennial workplan indicating the budget and staff resources needed to implement the proposed activities.