

# WHO international standard terminologies on traditional Chinese medicine



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# Foreword

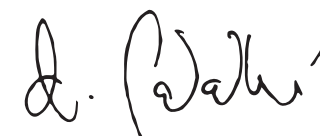
Traditional, complementary and integrative medicine (TCIM) is an important resource for health and well-being. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) *Global report on traditional and complementary medicine 2019*, 88% of WHO Member States acknowledge the use of traditional and complementary medicine in health care in their respective countries. WHO is currently implementing of its *13th General Programme of Work*, which aims to support countries in achieving universal health coverage and the health-related Sustainable Development Goals. Taking note of the growing importance of traditional medicine in the provision of health care at both the nation and global levels, WHO and its Member States have strived to explore ways to integrate safe and effective traditional and complementary medicines appropriately into national health systems.

WHO is unique in its leadership on independent normative guidance, and prioritizes normative products based on ongoing assessments of country needs. The organization is developing a series of standard terminologies for different forms of TCIM to support the use of relevant

benchmarking documents and other technical documents. Traditional Chinese medicine is one of the most popular forms of TCIM worldwide and it is fitting that this standard terminology on traditional Chinese medicine is the first of this series.

Standard terminology is an essential normative output, and one that enables professionals, policy-makers and the general public to use the same concepts, understanding and definitions in communications, health care services and medical records, as well as in related technical and training resources. Driven by domestic and international demands, WHO is pleased to respond by providing this type of technical guidance and essential tools to Member States – to help promote the safe and effective use of traditional Chinese medicine and to support development of further global goods and associated research.

I am pleased to introduce the *WHO International Standard Terminologies on Traditional Chinese Medicine* and invite you to join us in measuring and expanding its impact.



Zsuzsanna Jakab  
Deputy Director-General  
World Health Organization

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