

## WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit: Towards health and well-being for all

### 17 and 18 August 2023, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

#### **About the Summit**

WHO is convening the [Traditional Medicine Global Summit](#) on 17 and 18 August 2023 in India, to look anew at vast potential and applications of traditional medicine amidst important challenges and opportunities to achieve universal health coverage and well-being for people and the planet.

This will be the first in a series of global summits on traditional medicine, which will be held bi-annually in different WHO regions. The 2023 Summit will take place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, alongside the G20 Health Ministerial meeting. It is organized by the [WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine](#) and co-hosted by the Government of India, which holds the [G20 presidency](#) in 2023.

#### **Why traditional medicine**

Traditional and complementary medicine (T&CM)<sup>1</sup> is well established in many parts of the world, where it plays an important role in the culture, health and well-being of many communities. In some countries, it represents a [significant part of the health sector's economy](#).

The 2018 [Declaration of Astana](#) on primary health care acknowledges the need to include traditional medicine knowledge and technologies in the delivery of primary health care, a cornerstone of health systems, in pursuit of health for all.

WHO acknowledges the contribution of T&CM to health, well-being, people-centred health care and universal health coverage and [seeks to bring traditional medicine into the mainstream of health care](#), appropriately, effectively, and above all, safely.

#### **Why the Summit**

- **Traditional medicine has become a global phenomenon:** the demand is growing, with patients seeking greater agency and ownership of their health and well-being and seeking more compassionate and personalized health care.
- **Political momentum:** the demand from WHO Member States for stronger knowledge and evidence base on traditional medicine to guide their policy-making, combined with the linkages with G20 and forthcoming High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage at the United Nations General Assembly can help secure the highest-level political commitment on advancing the agenda on traditional, complementary and integrative medicine (TCIM)

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<sup>1</sup> Traditional and complementary medicine (T&CM) is an integral health resource recognized since the Declaration of Alma-Ata in 1978. The 2018 [Declaration of Astana](#) on primary health care in 2018 reaffirms this role.

- **There is more interest in learning and discovering**, and the openness to look anew at traditional medicine, its contributions to breakthrough medical discoveries and its vast potential and applications in health and medicine.
- **The application of new technologies in health and medicine**, such as genomics, artificial intelligence, ethnopharmacology, can open new frontiers of knowledge on traditional medicine, with important implications for health and well-being.
- **The rise of wellness industry**, building off traditional medicine in response to a growing interest of consumers in services that emphasize physical and mental health and well-being, highlights the need for a collaboration and new partnership for health and well-being economy.