

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ("MOU")
between

the World Health Organization,
20 avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland
("WHO")

and
Health Technology Assessment International
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
("HTAi")

WHEREAS WHO, through its Department of Essential Health Technologies, aims to promote and to ensure improved access, quality and use of health technologies;

WHEREAS HTAi supports and promotes the development, dissemination, understanding and use of health technology assessment (HTA) around the world as a scientifically based and multidisciplinary tool for informed decision making regarding the effective and efficient use of health technologies;

WHEREAS WHO and HTAi, hereinafter also referred to as "the Parties", believe that technical collaboration between the two organizations will contribute to the shared goal of promoting the wide availability of information for the assessment of safe, effective and affordable health technologies to promote better health care.

WHEREAS the Parties furthermore believe that agreement in advance on certain aspects of individual collaborative projects (as the Parties may identify on a case-by-case basis) will facilitate the early implementation of such projects, in particular by facilitating the conclusion of the agreements to which such projects would be subject.

NOW, therefore, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

1. Objective of the collaboration

Within the context of their respective constitutional, managerial and operational frameworks, WHO and HTAi agree to pursue closer collaboration in areas of mutual interest and to develop synergies towards common goals building on respective comparative strengths and advantages.

2. Areas of collaboration

HTAi will collaborate with WHO in the implementation of the World Health Assembly Resolution on Health Technologies WHA60.29 of May 2007, attached hereto as Annex 1, including assisting WHO, as appropriate, in the formulation of strategies and plans for the establishment of systems for the assessment of health technologies in Member States.

HTAi will further collaborate with WHO, in the development of the promotion, support of, demand for, and use of health technology assessment at the international, regional, national and local levels, by contributing, as appropriate, with technical advice, expertise and training material, as more fully described in Annex 2 attached hereto.

In particular for low and middle income countries, HTAi, through the Interest Sub Group on Health Technology Assessment in Developing Countries will provide WHO with technical

assistance through workshops, expert networks, annual conferences, its International Journal and webpage.

Subject to Section 3 hereof, WHO will provide HTAi support and assistance for the implementation of the collaborative activities referred to in this Section 2.

Subject to WHO rules and regulations, HTAi members may be invited to participate in Health Technologies meetings organized by WHO and representatives of WHO may participate in meetings organized by HTAi. Neither Party shall provide financial assistance to the other Party for participation at meetings, unless expressly agreed between the Parties prior to the meeting.

Each Party will establish focal points for the purpose of overseeing and guiding the implementation of this MOU. Meetings between the Executive Heads of the Parties will be convened at regular intervals to review cooperation and to provide guidance concerning opportunities for improved collaboration.

3. Collaborative activities

Any collaborative activity as outlined in article 2 above shall be subject to the availability of sufficient financial and human resources for that purpose, as well as each Party's programme of work, priority activities, internal rules, regulations, policies, administrative procedures and practices. Each collaborative activity shall thus be agreed on a case-by case-basis, subject to an exchange of letters or agreement specific to that activity.

4. Confidentiality

Except as explicitly provided in this MOU, each party shall take all reasonable measures to keep confidential any information specifically marked "confidential" about the other party that comes to its knowledge during the implementation of this Agreement. However, there shall be no obligation of confidentiality where: (i) The information is publicly available, or becomes publicly available, otherwise than by action or omission of the receiving party, or, (ii) The information was already known to the receiving party (as evidenced by its written records) prior to its receipt; or, (iii) The information was received from a third party not in breach of an obligation of confidentiality owed to the other party. In the event that a Party is in possession of special confidential information, which is proprietary to it or to third parties collaborating with it, that Party may require the conclusion of a separate confidential disclosure agreement for the sharing of such information with the other Party.

5. Publications

5.1 Subject to each Party's proprietary rights and/or the proprietary rights of others, and without prejudice to obligations of confidentiality, the results of any collaborative activity under this MOU may be published by either Party. The Parties are encouraged to publish the results of their joint work in a collaborative fashion. Guidelines for authorship of major, international, peer-reviewed journals will be used to establish authorship of collaborative publications. In regard to separate publications, it is agreed that in order to avoid prejudicing proprietary rights and the confidentiality of information, the publishing Party shall transmit to the other party for its review the material intended to be published at least 60 (sixty) days before a proposed publication is submitted to any editor, publisher, referee or meeting organizer. In the absence of any objection by the other Party within that 60 day period, concerning prejudice to proprietary rights or confidentiality of information, the publication may proceed. Any publication as referred to above shall duly acknowledged both Parties. In addition to review of the content of publications as

referred to above, each Party shall have the right to review the acknowledgement and request reasonable changes to the use of its name, or request that its name be deleted altogether.

5.2 Copyright in any jointly prepared publications resulting from or relating to any of the collaborative activities under this MOU shall be vested in WHO and HTAi jointly, who shall each independently and severally be entitled to exploit such copyright in any manner and for any purpose as they may each in their sole discretion deem appropriate, except that no use shall be made of such publications for or in conjunction with commercial and/or promotional purposes.

5.3 Copyright in any publications resulting from or relating to any of the collaborative activities under this MOU, and prepared by one of the Parties hereto on its own, shall be vested in that Party, provided however, that any such publication shall be submitted to the other Party for review and comments in accordance with paragraph 5.1 above.

6. Liability

6.1 Each Party shall be solely responsible for the manner in which it carries out its part of the collaborative activities under this MOU. Thus, a Party shall not be responsible for any loss, accident, damage or injury suffered or caused by the other Party, or that other Party's staff or sub-contractors, in connection with, or as a result of, the collaboration under this MOU.

6.2 The Parties shall make appropriate arrangements to cover liability risks for any collaborative activities involving product research and development.

7. Use of the Parties' names

Except as explicitly provided in this MOU, neither Party shall, in any statement or material of a promotional nature, refer to the relationship of the other Party to the collaboration pursuant to this MOU, or otherwise use the other Party's name, acronym and/or emblem, without the prior written consent of the other Party.

8. Relationship of the Parties

For the purposes of this MOU, each Party is an independent contractor and not the joint venturer, agent or employee of the other Party. Neither Party shall have authority to make any statements, representations, or commitments of any kind, or to take any action which shall be binding on the other Party, except as may be explicitly provided for in this MOU or authorized in writing by the other Party.

9. Term and Termination

This MOU will be deemed to be in effect on the date upon which it is signed by both parties and will remain in effect subject to the conditions of termination below.

This MOU may be terminated by either Party, subject to six months advance written notice to the other Party. However, the collaboration outlined in this MOU will be reviewed every two years from its date of last signature until such time as this MOU is terminated. Notwithstanding the foregoing, it is agreed that any termination of this MOU shall be without prejudice to: (i) The orderly completion of any ongoing collaborative activity; and, (ii) Any other rights and obligations of the Parties accrued prior to the date of termination of this MOU.

10. Amendments

This MOU may only be amended in writing by mutual consent of the Parties.

11. Settlement of disputes

Any dispute relating to the interpretation or execution of this MOU, or of any subsequent exchange of letters or agreement with respect to individual collaborative activities shall, unless amicably settled, be subject to conciliation. In the event of failure of the latter, the dispute shall be settled by arbitration. The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the modalities to be agreed upon by the Parties, or in the absence of agreement, in accordance with the rules of arbitration of the International Chambre of Commerce. The Parties shall accept the arbitral award as final.

Agreed and accepted:

For:	The World Health Organization	For:	Health Technology Assessment International
------	-------------------------------	------	---

Title	Assistant Director General in Health Systems and Services	Title	President
-------	--	-------	-----------

Name	Dr. Carissa Etienne	Name	Dr.Laura Sampietro-Colom,
------	---------------------	------	---------------------------

Date June 04, 2010



Date



Health technologies¹

The Sixtieth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on health technologies;²

Recognizing that health technologies equip health-care providers with tools that are indispensable for effective and efficient prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation and attainment of internationally agreed health-related development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

Understanding that health technologies in particular medical devices represent an economic as well as a technical challenge to the health systems of many Member States, and concerned about the waste of resources resulting from inappropriate investments in health technologies in particular medical devices that do not meet high-priority needs, are incompatible with existing infrastructures, are irrationally or incorrectly used, or do not function efficiently;

Acknowledging the need for Member States and donors to contain burgeoning costs by establishing priorities in the selection and acquisition of health technologies in particular medical devices on the basis of their impact on the burden of disease, and to ensure the effective use of resources through proper planning, assessment, acquisition and management;

Noting the need to expand expertise in the field of health technologies in particular medical devices;

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to collect, verify, update and exchange information on health technologies in particular medical devices as an aid to their prioritization of needs and allocation of resources;

(2) to formulate as appropriate national strategies and plans for the establishment of systems for the assessment, planning, procurement and management of health technologies in particular medical devices, in collaboration with personnel involved in health-technology assessment and biomedical engineering;

¹ The term "health technologies" refers to the application of organized knowledge and skills in the form of devices, medicines, vaccines, procedures and systems developed to solve a health problem and improve quality of lives".

² Document A60/26.

- (3) to draw up national or regional guidelines for good manufacturing and regulatory practices, to establish surveillance systems and other measures to ensure the quality, safety and efficacy of medical devices and where appropriate participate in international harmonization;
- (4) to establish where necessary regional and national institutions of health technology, and to collaborate and build partnerships with health-care providers, industry, patients' associations and professional, scientific and technical organizations;
- (5) to collect information that interrelates medical devices, which deal with priority public-health conditions at different levels of care and in various settings and environments, with the required infrastructure, procedures and reference tools;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to work with interested Member States and WHO collaborating centres on the development, in a transparent and evidence-based way, of guidelines and tools, including norms, standards and a standardized glossary of definitions relating to health technologies in particular medical devices;
- (2) to provide support to Member States where necessary in establishing mechanisms to assess national needs for health technologies in particular medical devices and to assure their availability and use;
- (3) to develop methodological tools to support Member States in analysing their health technologies in particular medical devices needs and health-system prerequisites;
- (4) to provide technical guidance and support to Member States where necessary in implementing policies on health technologies, in particular medical devices especially for priority diseases, according to different levels of care in developing countries;
- (5) to work jointly with other organizations of the United Nations system, international organizations, academic institutions and professional bodies in order to provide support to Member States in the prioritization, selection and use of health technologies in particular medical devices;
- (6) to establish and update regularly an evidence and web-based health technologies database to serve as a clearing house which will provide guidance on appropriate medical devices according to levels of care, setting, environment, and intended health intervention, tailored to the specific needs of country or region;
- (7) to provide support to Member States with vulnerable health-care systems so as to identify and put in place appropriate health technologies in particular medical devices that facilitate access to quality services in primary health care;
- (8) to report on implementation of this resolution to the Executive Board and the Sixty-second World Health Assembly through the Executive Board.

Eleventh plenary meeting, 23 May 2007
A60/VR/11

= = =

ANNEX 2

WHO/Health Technology Assessment International collaboration plan for the years 2010-11

The following activities are planned for 2010 and 2011.

Activity 1:

During the annual HTAi conference to be held June 6-9, 2010 in Dublin, Ireland, WHO will participate in the workshop organized by the HTAi Interest Subgroup in Developing Countries, and will host a meeting with the WHO Network of Collaborating Centers for HTA. In addition, the WHO will sponsor at least 4 developing Member States representatives to attend the HTAi conference and the above mentioned workshops.

Activity 2:

HTAi will work in collaboration with the WHO and the WHO Collaborating Centers for HTA on a joint half-day workshop on June 6th, during the Health Technology Assessment International annual Meeting, dedicated to strengthening HTA initiatives and implementation in developing countries. The workshop will include a WHO survey on detecting needs and finding the strategies to implement HTA in the specific countries.

Activity 3:

HTAi will provide the WHO, access to the glossary of terms in Health Technology Assessment as a tool for educating developing countries and will help to identify key HTA experts and documents as needed by WHO.

Activity 4:

Concerning the launch of the Call for the Innovative technologies by WHO on the Global Initiative on health Technologies, members of the HTAi Board will assist the WHO in the selection process for Innovative Technologies during the Second Advisory Group Meeting for Innovative Technologies to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark April 26-29, 2010.

Activity 5:

To help implement the WHA60.20 resolution, WHO is convening a Global Forum on Medical Devices, for establishing networks and sharing knowledge of best practices. The president of the HTAi, participates as a member of the International Organizing Committee for the First Global Forum on Medical Devices to be held 9-11 September, 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand, attending periodic Committee meetings, providing advice and expertise for the planning of the event, including proposals for the scientific programmed and experts for the meeting outcomes.

Activity 6:

To hold a preconference workshop to the HTAi 2011 meeting, in Brazil for developing countries as a follow up of the workshop in Dublin, 2010 to review implementation and measure the outcomes.

Activity 7:

To jointly implement a pilot project during the HTAi Dublin meeting, to facilitate access to content from HTAi Annual Meeting, including the workshops, via internet, to individuals from developing countries who are unable to attend.