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WHO Collaborating Centres

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PREAMBLE

ARTICLE 2(n) of the Constitution assigns to the World Health Organization (WHO) the function to promote and conduct research in the field of health. It is widely recognised that the optimal way of promoting research and related activities should be through collaboration with national institutions within Member States.

A large network of “WHO Collaborating Centres” has thus evolved over the years and is being constantly updated according to the needs of the Organisations Programme, particularly in respect of its aim of providing access to health for all.

Within WHO, the Department of Research Policy and Cooperation (located in the Evidence and Information for Policy Cluster) has been entrusted with the task of administering the process of formalising the relationship between WHO and its WHO Collaborating Centres.

Frequent queries have been received concerning substantive as well as procedural matters pertaining to the relationship. Consequently, it has been thought appropriate to issue an information booklet outlining the main features of the system of WHO Collaborating Centres, including its functions, role and rationale, as well as the procedural aspects of its management.

It is hoped that this outline will prove helpful in clarifying the collaborative mechanisms involved, and in facilitating their utilisation by all parties concerned.

WHO DESIGNATED COLLABORATING CENTRES

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

THE idea of using national institutions for international purposes dates back to the days of the League of Nations, when national laboratories were first designated as reference centres for the standardisation of biological products. As soon as WHO was established, it appointed more reference centres, starting in 1947 with the World Influenza Centre in London for world-wide epidemiological surveillance.

As early as 1949, the Second World Health Assembly laid down the policy (which has been constantly followed since) that the Organization should *not* consider the establishment, under its own auspices, of international research institutions and that research in the field of health is best advanced by assisting, coordinating and making use of the activities of existing institutions.¹ All WHO collaborating centres, whether they deal with research or not (most of them do), have been designated under that policy, which has undoubtedly enhanced national participation in the Organisation's activities. There is, however, an exception to that policy, in the WHO Region of the Americas, where a number of international health centres, some with regional (hemisphere-wide), others with sub-regional functions, have been set up, and are financed and administered by the Pan American Health Organization, the regional organisation of WHO for the Americas.

DEFINITION

BY definition, a WHO collaborating centre forms part of an inter-institutional collaborative network set up by WHO in support of its programme at the country, inter-country, regional, interregional and

¹ Resolutions WHA2.19 and WHA2.32 (1949)

global levels, as appropriate. But there is more to it than that. In line with the WHO policy and strategy of technical cooperation, a WHO collaborating centre must also participate in the strengthening of country resources, in terms of information, services, research and training, in support of national health development.

A department or laboratory within an institution or a group of facilities for reference, research or training belonging to different institutions may be designated as a centre, one institution acting for them in relation with the Organization.

Both institutions that show the capacity to fulfil a function or functions relevant to the Organisation's programme and objectives, and institutions of high scientific and technical standing that have already attained international recognition may qualify for designation as WHO collaborating centres.

Designation is made with the agreement of the head of the establishment to which the institution is attached or with that of the director of the institution, if it is independent, and after consultation with the national government. An institution is designated initially for a term of four years; the designation may be renewed for the same or a shorter period. A WHO collaborating centre may be jointly designated by WHO and by another competent and specialised international body, e.g., FAO.

Designation is independent of financial support being given to the institution by WHO. Grants may be made to any institution that is able to perform a specific task connected with WHO's programme but this has no relevance to the eligibility or ineligibility of that institution for designation.

FUNCTIONS OF THE WHO COLLABORATING CENTRES

THE functions of the WHO collaborating centres are manifold. They can be logically grouped under a few major headings.

The WHO collaborating centres are used, in various fields, for the purpose of standardisation of terminology and nomenclature, of

diagnostic, therapeutic and prophylactic substances, of technologies, methods and procedures, etc.

Standardisation is typically a global function, devolving upon the central echelon of the WHO Secretariat, but it benefits all Member States by developing common denominators and a universal language allowing for better international understanding and easier comparison of data on a world-wide basis.

Many examples of collaborative work undertaken for the purpose of standardisation under WHO's aegis may be cited, *inter alia* :

- the international classification of diseases;
- the establishment of international standards and reference preparations for biological substances used in human and veterinary medicine;
- the production of chemical reference substances in relation to the International Pharmacopoeia and the national pharmacopoeias;
- the international histopathological nomenclature and classification of tumours;
- the setting of standards for the pathology of atherosclerosis.

The WHO collaborating centres participate in the synthesis and dissemination of information, namely: (a) the scientific and technical information they need for the conduct of their activities and which these activities generate; and (b) information of interest to the country's national health development and/or to WHO in the implementation of its programme.

Special importance must be attached to the exchange of scientific, technical and programme information between the centres and other concerned institutions within or outside the country, particularly those forming part of the same WHO collaborative network.

The WHO collaborating centres provide services under two major aspects.

- (1) The first aspect is a traditional, long-established one: it concerns services provided to the Organization in support of programmes of global interest. In the world-wide programme of epidemiological surveillance of influenza, for instance, a few WHO collaborating centres receive from a large number of national institutions recognised by WHO throughout the world epidemiological information on outbreaks of influenza, made available to all Member States through WHO's permanent telex service and the Weekly Epidemiological Record, and new strains of the virus for characterisation and advice as to their possible use in vaccine preparation. In turn, the centres distribute to these laboratories the reagents, antigens and antisera they need, and to vaccine producers high-yielding recombinant viruses for the preparation of the vaccine.

The evaluation and testing of new insecticides is another type of service in which WHO collaborating centres for vector biology and control have been deeply involved.

WHO Collaborating centres have been a constant source of support to the Organization and to its Member States in epidemics, for epidemiological surveillance, for the identification of the causal agent(s), and for the development of preventive measures.

- (2) The second essential aspect of the service function of the centres is their involvement in technical cooperation for national health development.

By their permanent linkage with cooperating institutions in the countries, the centres can and must play a decisive role in institutional development. Positive results have already been obtained in this respect, for example in the influenza programme already mentioned, which, by involving the national institutions of many developing countries, has had undeniably stimulating effects on the development of virus laboratories in these countries. The Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction), *inter alia*, has had a significant impact, through

its WHO collaborating centres, on research and training, as well as on action programmes in the developing countries.

The WHO collaborating centres in the future must become more directly effective instruments of technical cooperation in support of the Organisation's overall effort towards the attainment of better levels of health for all.

- (4) Since the inception in 1958 of WHO's intensified programme of medical research, the research function of the WHO collaborating centres has acquired a growing and rapidly predominant importance. It can be said that the large increase in the number of centres in the course of the last two decades has been due, mainly to the development of the research component of WHO's programme.

The WHO collaborating centres are therefore one of the keystones of the collaborative research efforts developed under WHO's leadership at all levels; they must form, for each specific research objective in the various areas of work of the Organization, a closely knit functional network.

The activities of the networks must be planned, monitored and evaluated with the active and continued participation of the scientific community, at the national, regional and global levels. Meetings of directors of WHO collaborating centres exemplify this process which gives to the research functions of the centres the added dimensions of research planning, monitoring and evaluation.

- (5) Last but not the least, the WHO collaborating centres play an essential role in training and particularly in research training. With the present emphasis on the strengthening of institutions, especially research institutions, in the developing countries, this role appears all the more important.

As an illustration, when WHO decided to expand its activity in the field of immunology, it first set up research and training centres because no real progress could be envisaged without a minimal core of qualified immunologists in the countries themselves. This is not an isolated example and, since then, the

special programmes on human reproduction and tropical diseases have been based on the strong, intimate association of research and training.

(6) To these intrinsic functions of the WHO collaborating centres must be added, for some centres, a function of coordination. Where the centres of a given network participate in a collaborative scheme it may be necessary to assign to one or more of them, chosen in consideration of their quality and experience, the task of promoting, supporting and harmonising the work undertaken in common.

(7) In conclusion, a WHO collaborating centre contributes to increasing technical cooperation with and among countries by providing them with information, services and advice, and by stimulating and supporting research and training.

A WHO collaborating centre participates in activities based on a plan of work agreed upon by the centre and supported by the Organization at the country, inter-country, regional, interregional and global levels.

ROLE OF WHO COLLABORATING CENTRES

THE plan of work must reflect WHO policies and priorities, particularly in the light of the general commitment made by the Member States to provide access to health for all.

An outstanding organisational role in this respect is the promotion of health research and development, and the definition of the scientific and technical bases for health programmes, including norms and standards.

Thus the role of the network of WHO collaborating centres should subserve the major goal of technical cooperation between the Member States of the Organization. This includes cooperation between two or more developing countries, to foster sustainable social, economic and health development. WHO collaborating centres should be seen as an important channel to facilitate the exchange of information, experience

and expertise between developing countries, as well as to stimulate the endogenous process to integrate various national actions towards self-reliance and sustainability of health outcomes.

CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF WHO COLLABORATING CENTRES

AS a rule, WHO collaborating centres must be selected in fields that are relevant and contribute to the implementation of WHO programme activities. They must fulfil one or several essential functions in support of WHO programmes and key priorities. Particular attention will be given to institutions in less developed countries with good potential and which can play a strategic role in strengthening WHO's network in terms of geographical coverage and area of expertise for health development.

Within this context, the criteria to be applied in selecting an institution for designation as a WHO collaborating centre are :

- (1) The scientific and technical standing of the institution concerned at the national and international levels, with particular reference to its recent record of achievement and its ongoing activities.
- (2) The place the institution occupies in the country's health, scientific and educational structures and its relations with the national authorities concerned, in terms of both its contribution to national health development programmes and the governmental support it receives.
- (3) The quality of its scientific and technical leadership, the number and qualifications of its staff, and the adequacy of its equipment, laboratory or teaching premises and other facilities.
- (4) The institution's prospective stability in terms of personnel, activity and funding.

- (5) The working relationship which the institution has developed with other institutions in the country as well as the inter-country, regional and global levels.
- (6) The institution's ability, capacity and readiness to contribute, individually and within networks, to WHO programme activities, whether in support of country programmes or by participating in international collaborative schemes.
- (7) The technical and geographical relevance of the institution and its activities to WHO's mandate and programme priorities.
- (8) The institution's will, where appropriate, to develop its potential with the scientific and technical support of WHO.
- (9) The ability and readiness of the institution to provide services over a sufficient period of time and not only for a single, limited task.

PROCEDURES FOR DESIGNATING WHO COLLABORATING CENTRES

REGIONAL Directors propose institutions for designation as WHO collaborating centres by the Director-General. They do so on the basis of preliminary exploration with the institutions and national authorities concerned and with the advice of and on suggestions from the Organisation's programme officers responsible, at both global and regional levels, for the areas of work concerned. Before designation can take place the institution must have carried out jointly planned activities and successfully completed at least two years of collaboration with WHO. This should be documented as part of the pre-designation phase.

Regional Directors provide the Director-General with appropriate information concerning:

- (a) the programme requirements to which the prospective centre is expected to respond and the functions it will have to perform;

- (b) the suitability of the institution concerned, on the basis of the criteria laid down in these regulations and by the Director-General;
- (c) the preliminary evaluation of collaborative activities with the proposed institution during the pre-designation phase; and
- (d) the government's and institution's agreement to the proposed designation.

Designation must be by agreement with the administrative head of the institution after consultation with the national authorities. The designation is signified to the institution and the national authorities by the Regional Director concerned.

WHO collaborating centres are designated for an initial period of four years. The designation is renewable for the same or shorter periods, if warranted by programme requirements and the results of evaluation.

TITLE AND USE OF WHO'S NAME AND EMBLEM ON LETTERHEADS

AFTER designation, an institution is known by the official title "WHO Collaborating Centre", these words being followed by a concise indication of the sphere of activity covered by the centre, e.g. WHO Collaborating Centre for research on for reference on, for standardisation of procedures on

A WHO collaborating centre may use the name WHO or World Health Organisation and the WHO emblem in its letterhead under the conditions set forth below.

- (a) The WHO name and emblem are to be used solely for correspondence related to the institution's activities as a collaborating centre.
- (b) If the term WHO or World Health Organisation is used in the letterhead, the characters of these terms should be of the same size as those for the title of the centre. The title of the centre is

WHO Collaborating Centre followed by a concise indication of the sphere of activity covered by the centre, e.g. WHO Collaborating Centre for research on, for reference on, for standardisation of procedures on

- (c) If the language used by the centre for its letterhead is a language other than the official languages of the World Health Assembly (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) or other languages used officially by regional offices, then one of the latter should also be included.
- (d) Any letterhead using WHO's name should include the title under which the institution has been designated, as indicated in the official letter of designation.
- (e) The size of the WHO emblem and the characters of the title of the centre should be smaller than the size of the characters of the name of the institute.

All other uses of WHO's name and emblem require the Director-General's prior approval.

A WHO flag can be obtained upon request for use by the centre on certain occasions - and not on a permanent basis - (e.g. on World Health Day, 7 April; on the occasion of any official event related in some way to the World Health Organization) and provided it is displayed in conformity with the WHO Flag Code and Regulations (sent at the same time as the flag).

MANAGEMENT AND EVALUATION

THE management of collaboration with a centre is the responsibility primarily of the technical programme that initiates the designation process. Interaction between technical units in regions and headquarters ensures that the centre's collaboration is available to the whole Organization. In each WHO regional office, as at headquarters, focal points are designated to manage and coordinate statutory information and procedures on WHO collaborating centres. Overall guidelines and schedules have also been developed for the management and monitoring

of collaboration with the centres and they are common to all regions and programmes (Annexes 1 - 4).

Successful collaboration requires that particular attention be paid to the joint preparation of the centre's terms of reference and work plans. This should involve the institution, the regional office and the technical unit concerned in headquarters. The work plan should comprise clearly defined objectives and expected results, explicitly related to WHO's activities as set out in its programme budget. WHO should dedicate its own staff time and other resources, although not necessarily direct financial support, to ensure that collaboration can develop in a useful manner.

The programme manager concerned bears the main technical responsibility for evaluation of the work performed by a WHO collaborating centre, assisted as necessary by the global and regional advisory committees on health research and by outside health consultants such as members of expert panels, depending on the magnitude and complexity of the question concerned.

Monitoring takes place on a continuing basis and at the end of each year a WHO collaborating centre must submit a report on the implementation of activities with the concerned programme in WHO. This report should reflect progress achieved in respect of the work plan, underlining possible difficulties and formulating suggestions for improvements for future course of cooperation. A final evaluation takes place at the end of the four-year designation period. It includes an assessment of WHO's support for, and actual use of, collaboration with the centre. No decision may be made on redesignation of any centre until completion of a thorough evaluation of its past performance and the continued relevance of this collaboration in view of WHO's evolving needs and policy.

To facilitate management, cooperation and networking, a global information system on all WHO collaborating centres has been developed, to be accessible world-wide to WHO staff, WHO collaborating centres, and eventually Member States and the public health community at large. Exchange of experience and collaboration between centres is supported by regular meetings at country and regional levels and on specific topics.

CONCLUSION

THE network of WHO collaborating centres represents one of the earliest mechanisms for carrying out technical cooperation between the Organization and Member States. This mechanism has developed and has seen its prestige continuously enhanced, whereas its adaptation to new programmatic requirements has ensured overall consistency with the needs of international cooperation.

It must be emphasised that the essential value of this mechanism lies in its scientific and professional capacity to contribute to the collective effort of WHO's Member States, a task which should not be overshadowed by the networks purely formal elements.

Annex 1

PRELIMINARY EVALUATION CHECKLIST

(to be filled in by WHO technical staff, i.e. WHO country representative in coordination with the regional office and/or headquarters)

Please use this checklist to assess the attached proposal for designation as a WHO Collaborating Centre.

This standardized form has been designed to facilitate the preliminary evaluation process. It must be used in all cases, regardless of the technical and geographical area of activity of the institution under consideration. Kindly specify the technical area and title proposed for collaboration with the institution. Fill in the form and return it to the technical programme from which the proposal originated.

If you determine that this institution is eligible for designation, *please consult with your counterpart in the regional office and/or at headquarters* regarding the development of provisional terms of reference and a work plan for the next period of collaboration. Once in agreement on specific recommendations, please inform RPC (at headquarters, and its equivalent in the regional office).

WHO Collaborating Centres play a strategic role in helping WHO to implement its mandated activities and programme priorities. They are also essential partners in WHO's strategy for building up institutional capacity in countries and regions and strengthening resources in information, research, training, services and advice.

When evaluating institutions proposed for designation as collaborating centres, particular attention should be given to criteria such as their relevance to WHO's work and objectives, and their technical and institutional standing and sustainability.

High standards of competence and integrity must always be maintained.

WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE EVALUATION CHECKLIST

(1) Scientific and Technical Standing

Please indicate your comments and score each section on a scale of 0 to 5, with 5 as the highest score:

	Comments	Score
– Standards of research (national/regional/global)		
– Recognition of training courses (national/regional/global)		
– Adequacy of facilities (labs/equipment)		
– Publications		
– Qualifications of the Director Professional staff		
– Scientific activities at global level		

Note : 0 = insufficient ; 1 = poor; 2 = fair; 3 = good; 4 = very good; 5 = excellent

(2) Institution's Stability

Please provide information and comments on the items below and, where possible and applicable, assess stability by scoring on a scale of 0 to 5:

	Information/ Comments	Score
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of years in operation - Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) type of funding national/international public/private (2) prospective stability - Faculty/Professional staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) size (2) prospective stability - Contributions to national health programmes - Collaboration with national institutions - Support staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) overall number (2) stability 		

Note : 0 = insufficient ; 1 = poor; 2 = fair; 3 = good; 4 = very good; 5 = excellent

(3) Institution's Potential Collaboration with WHO

In the space below, please give your opinion of the institutions capability for potential collaboration with WHO.

	Comments	Score
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Previous contribution to WHO activities- Contributions to international programmes- Collaboration with international institutions- Activities at global level managed by the institution itself- International fellowship programmes- Capacity to collaborate: (1) over an extended period of time (2) on more than one specific task- Other criteria		

Note : 0 = insufficient ; 1 = poor; 2 = fair; 3 = good; 4 = very good; 5 = excellent

Annex 2

RECOMMENDED FORMAT FOR INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

The institution profile consists of three parts:

Part I - Description of the collaborating center

Part II - Terms of reference and work plan

Part III - Description of planned activities

Introduction

The introduction should give brief background information on

- (a) the origin of the proposal (external or internal), the technical programme which is sponsoring the request for designation, and the reasons for the proposed designation as a WHO collaborating centre;
- (b) the steps that have led to this proposal, e.g. site-visits by WHO staff and consultants, previous participation of the institution in WHO projects, emphasis placed by the national authorities and the institution itself on activities related to WHO's programmes, and the joint development of a work plan including a preliminary two-year collaboration period if this has not yet taken place.

Part I – Description of the Centre

(a) Centre's Identification

- (1) Full name and address of the institution (telephone, fax and e-mail)
- (2) Exact name of the department/unit/section/laboratory, etc. which will act as the WHO collaborating centre;

- (3) Title proposed for the WHO collaborating centre, including its main function and the area of activity in which collaboration will take place (e.g., WHO collaborating centre for research on, for reference on, for training in, for assessing technologies in, etc.)
- (4) Name of the Director of the institution;
- (5) Name of the Head of the WHO collaborating centre (i.e. the person with overall responsibility for carrying out the work plan) - this may be the Director of the Institute or the head of the unit, department, etc.,
- (6) Statutory functions of the institution; formal links, if any, with other institutions and sectors with similar or relevant interests.

(b) Administrative structure

This section should include information on:

- (1) Organisational chart;
- (2) Administrative and scientific responsibility for the work of the proposed centre;
- (3) Establishment of national and international advisory boards (composition, frequency of meetings, terms of reference);
- (4) List of senior staff of the WHO collaborating centre with an indication of their expertise;
- (5) Facilities available (e.g. laboratories, training facilities, documentation centre, etc.)

Part II – Work plan

The proposed work plan can be presented as a short executive summary. It should include information on the following:

- (1) The terms of reference of the WHO collaborating centre (a list of concrete activities with specific actions to be carried out during the period of designation, specifying the person responsible, the expected outcome and the deadline);
- (2) The links with the objectives of the WHO programme budget in the technical areas concerned; the counterpart in WHO technical programme;

- (3) Criteria and time frame for reporting on the implementation of the work plan;
- (4) Language of correspondence.

Part III – Description of the activities:

- (1) For each main activity included in the work plan, there will be an annex providing more detailed information. The level of detail will depend on the nature of the activity. For all activities the following is required:
 - the name, scope and objectives of the activity; corresponding activities in the WHO technical programme(s) concerned
 - relevant targets and planned contribution to the WHO programme budgets expected results at national, regional and/or global level
 - name of the person responsible for the activity
 - administrative structure for implementing the activity
 - duration of the activity (with a deadline)
 - nature and level of resources committed by the centre and by WHO
- (2) Depending on the nature of the activity (training-course, information, services, etc.), and if specific funding is provided by WHO, the following information may be useful:
 - financial provisions
 - faculty or staffing
 - research objectives
 - educational objectives
 - course contents
 - target group(s)
 - materials and methods
 - deadline and expected outcome of the activity
 - dissemination of the results
 - evaluation of the outcome

Annex 3

TIME FRAME FOR THE DESIGNATION PROCESS

1. Predesignation Phase

Preliminary evaluation of the institution. Preparation of the terms of reference (TOR), including the work plan for a two-year collaboration if this has not yet taken place.

(3 months approximately)

2. Two-year Collaboration Period

(2 years if there has been no previous collaboration with the institution)

3. Finalisation of the Terms of Reference and Work Plan

Evaluation of previous collaboration by the technical unit in charge: the Institutional profile is defined, the terms of reference are finalised and a four-year work plan is jointly developed with the institution.

(one month approximately)

4. Assessment by Regional Screening Committee/Mechanism

The terms of reference, work plan and institutional profile are submitted along with the preliminary evaluation checklist to the regional screening committee/mechanism. If the proposal is considered acceptable, the Regional Office refers it to the Global Screening Committee for further review.

(3 months approximately depending on the schedule of the regional screening committee)

5. Assessment by Global Screening Committee

The Global Screening Committee reviews the proposal submitted by the Regional Director. The conclusions are then referred back to the Regional Director for further appropriate action.

(3 months approximately depending on the schedule of the global screening committee)

6. Regional Director's Recommendation and Government Clearance

The Regional Director, if in agreement with the proposal, writes an official letter to the government inviting its comments and formal clearance. Having received express approval of the government, the Regional Director then forwards his/her recommendation to the Director-General.

(6 to 8 weeks)

7. Director-General's Decision on Designation

The Director-General makes her/his decision upon the formal recommendation of the Regional Director. An official designation letter is sent to the institution.

(one month approximately)

Annex 4

RECOMMENDED FORMAT FOR ANNUAL REPORTS WHO COLLABORATING CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT (YEAR/2000...)

Annual Reports must be submitted by WHO collaborating centres for each year of their current designation period. Reports should be sent to the WHO technical programme immediately concerned which, in its turn, will provide comments on the centres performance as well as information on WHO's input and the use the Organization has made of this collaboration. Final evaluation of the quality and outcome of collaboration takes place at the end of each four-year period of designation.

Before redesignation may be considered, a new 4-year work plan and (if necessary) revised terms of reference must be jointly developed by the centre and WHO's responsible technical officer, and submitted for consideration and approval through the regular screening process.

1. Title of the centre:
2. Annual Report (year):
3. Address:
4. Head of the centre:
5. Terms of reference of the centre:
 - (a)
 - (b)
 -

6. Implementation of the work plan

(for each main activity use a separate sheet).

6.1 Work performed in relation to the terms of reference:

- name of the activity
- how the activity was implemented
- publications and other outcomes
- evaluation (e.g. evaluation of a course by the participants)
- difficulties (if any)

6.2 Recommendations, where applicable, for:

- further implementation of the activity
- revision of the terms of reference
- preparation of the terms of reference of the next designation period (4 years)
- related activities (e.g., follow-up and monitoring)

6.3 Collaboration between the centre and WHO:

- visits by WHO staff (HQ and/or Regional Office) to the centre
- visits by the centre staff to WHO (HQ and/or Regional Office)
- use of the centre staff by WHO
- support provided by centre staff for courses cosponsored or organized by WHO (HQ and/or Regional Office)
- WHO financial support to the centre through contractual or Technical Services Agreement ,
- other type of support provided by WHO
- any other collaborative activities
- any difficulties encountered in the collaboration
- suggestions for increased and improved collaboration with WHO.

6.4 Collaboration with other WHO collaborating centres:

- name(s) of the other WHO collaborating centre(s) with which the centre has collaborated
- name of the network of collaborating centres to which the centre belongs
- nature of the collaboration
- outcome of the collaboration
- suggestions for increased and improved collaboration with other WHO collaborating centres

7. Evaluation by WHO (Technical Programme):

- evaluation (strengths and weaknesses) of the implementation of the activities included in the terms of reference
- impact on the centre's activities of its designation as a WHO collaborating centre
- impact of the activities undertaken by the centre, as a WHO collaborating centre, on health development and capacity-building at the country level
- relevance of the centre's research activity to WHO's programme (in relation to which objective and expected result in the programme budget)
- type of input and support provided to the centre by the WHO technical programme

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