



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

FIFTY-FIFTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
Provisional agenda item 19

A55/35 Add.1
10 May 2002

Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations: International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Report by the Secretariat

ACTION IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

1. Since March 2001, WHO has participated regularly in meetings convened by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, agencies of the United Nations system and permanent missions based in Geneva to prepare for the Permanent Forum. It also convened such a meeting (Geneva, July 2001).
2. As requested by the Office of the High Commissioner, WHO designated a Focal Point to represent the Organization during the process of establishing and adopting the terms of reference for an inter-agency support group to the Permanent Forum. The mandate of the group, of which 16 United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies are currently members, is to provide assistance and support to members of the Permanent Forum and its secretariat, and to consider ways and means appropriate to the mandates and capacities of the organizations it represents of implementing the recommendations made by the Permanent Forum to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.
3. WHO provided briefing materials and documentation to the members of the Permanent Forum in preparation for its inaugural session (New York, 13-24 May 2002). WHO staff have participated in informal planning meetings, and PAHO staff, who participated in a briefing/orientation meeting for the members (New York, 6-10 May 2002), will attend part of the session itself.

CONSULTATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS ON A GLOBAL STRATEGY ON INDIGENOUS HEALTH

4. The Director-General is actively seeking ways in which WHO can support Member States, in further elaborating the global strategy, taking into consideration the issues and challenges outlined in document A55/35. To this end, and in response to resolution WHA54.16, a consultative process will be carried out that draws on existing international interventions and initiatives (such as the Permanent

Forum) and on the activities of national governments and other stakeholders, and that builds on action already being undertaken within WHO in relation to this strategy.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

5. The Regional Office for Africa is exploring suitable methods of incorporating work on marginalized populations into its framework on health and poverty. The Regional Office for the Americas continues to make progress in implementing its Health of the Indigenous Peoples Initiative. The Regional Office for the Western Pacific is making arrangements to carry out case studies on the health of indigenous people or ethnic minorities in several countries, in collaboration with national governments and offices of WHO Representatives.

6. The “Global compendium of indigenous health research institutions”¹ has been compiled and widely distributed. Guidelines on participatory research management, to assist indigenous people and research institutions undertaking collaborative research, have been drafted for WHO by a Canadian research institution directed by indigenous leaders and circulated for comment.

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¹ Document WHO/HDE/HID/01.2.