

Poliomyelitis: mechanism for management of potential risks to eradication

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report on poliomyelitis: a mechanism for the management of potential risks to eradication,¹

RECOMMENDS to the Sixty-first World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:²

The Sixty-first World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on poliomyelitis: a mechanism for the management of potential risks to eradication;

Recalling resolution WHA60.14, which urged Member States in which wild poliovirus is still present, especially the four countries in which poliomyelitis is endemic, to intensify poliomyelitis eradication activities in order rapidly to interrupt all remaining transmission of wild poliovirus;

Recognizing the need to make rapidly available the necessary financial resources to eradicate poliomyelitis and minimize the long-term risks of reintroduction of poliovirus and re-emergence of poliomyelitis after interruption of wild poliovirus transmission;

Recognizing the need for international coordination of the strategies to minimize and manage the long-term risks of reintroduction of poliovirus and re-emergence of poliomyelitis after interruption of wild poliovirus transmission globally;

Noting that planning for such international consensus must begin as soon as possible after transmission of wild poliovirus is interrupted globally,

¹ Document EB122/6.

² See document EB122/6 Add.1 for the financial and administrative implications for the Secretariat of this resolution.

1. URGES all remaining poliomyelitis-affected Member States to engage all levels of political and civil society in order to ensure that every child is consistently reached and vaccinated during every supplementary immunization activity against poliomyelitis, so that all remaining transmission of wild poliovirus is interrupted rapidly;
2. URGES all Member States:
 - (1) to strengthen active surveillance of acute flaccid paralysis in order to detect rapidly any circulating poliovirus and prepare for certification of poliomyelitis eradication;
 - (2) to complete the activities outlined in phase I of the WHO global action plan for laboratory containment of wild polioviruses¹ and prepare to implement appropriate long-term safeguards and biocontainment conditions for remaining wild polioviruses within at most 12 months after detection of the last case of poliomyelitis caused by a circulating wild virus;
 - (3) to achieve rapidly and to maintain routine immunization coverage against poliomyelitis at a level greater than 80% of the childhood population;
 - (4) to make available rapidly the necessary financial resources to eradicate poliomyelitis, and to minimize the risks of reintroduction of poliovirus and re-emergence of poliomyelitis after interruption of wild poliovirus transmission;
3. REQUESTS the Director-General:
 - (1) to continue to provide technical support to the remaining countries affected by poliomyelitis in their efforts to interrupt the final chains of transmission of wild poliovirus;
 - (2) to assist in mobilizing the financial resources necessary for full implementation of the intensified eradication effort and for ensuring that the long-term risks of reintroduction of poliovirus and re-emergence of poliomyelitis are minimized;
 - (3) to undertake the necessary research to characterize fully the long-term risks of reintroduction of poliovirus and re-emergence of poliomyelitis and to develop appropriate strategies and products for managing these risks, including safer processes for production of inactivated poliovirus vaccine and affordable strategies for its use;
 - (4) to develop a new strategy for renewed fight to eradicate poliomyelitis from the remaining countries drawing on experience from regions where poliomyelitis is eradicated and on operations research in order to determine the most efficient and cost-effective interventions;

¹ Second edition, document WHO/V&B/03.11.

(5) to report to the Health Assembly when she determines that transmission of wild poliovirus type 1 is likely to have been interrupted globally, and to submit with that report a proposal or proposals for review by the Executive Board for a mechanism to mitigate the risk of the reintroduction of poliovirus that does not involve amending the International Health Regulations (2005) or developing another binding instrument.

Second meeting, 21 January 2008
EB122/SR/2

= = =