

Health intervention and technology assessment in support of universal health coverage

Draft resolution proposed by Malaysia and Maldives

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report on health intervention and technology assessment in support of universal health coverage,¹

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

The Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly,

PP1 Recalling World Health Assembly resolutions WHA52.19 on revised drug strategy, WHA58.33 on sustainable health financing, universal coverage and social health insurance, WHA60.16 on progress in the rational use of medicines, WHA60.29 on health technologies, WHA63.21 on WHO's role and responsibilities in health research, and WHA64.9 on sustainable health financing structures and universal coverage;

PP2 Recognizing the importance of evidence-based policy development and decision-making in health systems, including decisions on resource allocation, service system designs and translation of policies into practice, as well as reaffirming the roles and responsibilities of the World Health Organization in provision of support to strengthen information systems and health research capacity, and their utilization in Member States;

PP3 Noting that the efficient use of resources is a crucial factor in the sustainability of health systems' performance, especially when significant increases in access to essential medicines, including generic medicines, to medical devices and procedures, and to other healthcare interventions for prevention, diagnosis and treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care are pursued by Member States, as they move towards universal health coverage;

¹ Document EB134/30.

PP4 Noting that *The world health report 2010*¹ indicates that as high as 40% of spending on health is being wasted and that there is therefore, an urgent need for systematic, effective solutions to reduce such inefficiencies and enhance the rational use of health technology;

PP5 Acknowledging the critical role of independent health intervention and technology assessment, as multidisciplinary policy research, in generating evidence to inform prioritization, selection, introduction, distribution, and management of interventions for health promotion, disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment palliation, and patient rehabilitation;

PP6 Emphasizing that with rigorous and structured research methodology and transparent and inclusive processes, assessment of medicines, vaccines, medical devices and equipment, and health procedures, could help to address the demand for reliable information on the safety, efficacy, quality, appropriateness and efficiency dimensions of such technologies to determine if and when they are integrated into particular health interventions and systems;

PP7 Concerned that the capacity to assess, research and document the public health, economic, organizational, social and ethical implications of health interventions and technologies is inadequate in most developing countries, resulting in inadequate information to guide rational policy and professional decisions and practices;

PP8 Recognizing the importance of strengthened national capacity and regional and international networking and collaboration on health intervention and technology assessment to promote evidence-based health policy,

(OP1)1. URGES Member States:²

(1) to encourage the systematic utilisation of independent health intervention and technology assessment to inform policy decisions, including the priority-setting, selection, procurement supply system management and use of health interventions and/or technologies, as well as the formulation of sustainable financing benefit packages, medicines, benefits management including pharmaceutical formularies, clinical practice guidelines and protocols for public health programmes;

(2) to consider in addition to the use of established and widely agreed methods, developing as appropriate national methodological and process guidelines and monitoring systems for health intervention and technology assessment in order to ensure transparency, quality, and policy relevance of related assessments and research;

(3) to further consolidating and promoting health intervention and technology assessment into national frameworks, such as those for health system research, health professional education, health system strengthening and universal health coverage;

¹*The world health report 2010. Health systems financing: the path to universal coverage.* Geneva: World Health Organization; 2010.

² And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

(3bis) to consider strengthening national capacity for regional and international networking, to develop national know-how, avoid duplication of efforts and achieve better use of resources;

(4) to consider collaborating with other Member States health organizations, academic institutions, professional associations and other key stakeholders in the country or region to collect and share information and lessons learned in order to formulate and implement national strategic plans concerning capacity building for and introduction of health intervention and technology assessment, and to summarize best practices on transparent evidence-informed health policy and decision-making;

(5) to identify gaps with regard to promoting and implementing evidence-based health policy, as well as improving related information systems and research capacity, and consider seeking technical support and exchanging information and sharing of experiences with other Member States, regional networks and international entities, including WHO;

(OP2)2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to assess the status of health intervention and technology assessment in Member States in terms of methodology, human resources and institutional capacity, governance, linkage between health intervention and technology assessment units and/or networks with policy authorities, utilization of assessment results, and interests in and impediments to strengthening capacity;

(2) to raise awareness and to foster knowledge and to encourage practice of health intervention and technology assessment and its uses in decision-making among national policy-makers and other stakeholders, by drawing best practices from the operation, performance and contributions of competent research institutes and health intervention and technology assessment agencies and programmes, and sharing such experiences with Member States through appropriate channels and activities, including global and regional networks and academic institutions;

(3) to integrate health intervention and technology assessment concepts and principles into the relevant strategies and areas of work of WHO, including, but not limited to, those on universal health coverage, including health financing, access to and rational use of quality-assured medicines, vaccines and other health technologies, the prevention and management of noncommunicable and communicable diseases, mother and child care, and the formulation of evidence-based health policy;

(4) to provide technical support to Member States, relevant intergovernmental organizations and global health partners, in order to strengthen capacity for health intervention and technology assessment, including, when appropriate, the development and use of global guidance on methods and processes based on internationally agreed practices;

(5) to ensure adequate capacity at all levels of WHO, and utilizing its networks of experts and collaborating centres other regional and international networks, in order to address the demand for support to facilitate evidence-based policy decisions in Member States;

(6) to support exchange of information, sharing of experiences and capacity-building in health intervention and technology assessment through collaborative mechanisms and networks at global, regional and country levels, as well as to ensure these partnerships are active, effective and sustainable;

(7) to report on progress in the implementation of this resolution, through the Executive Board, to the Sixty-ninth World Health Assembly.

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