

Cervical cancer prevention and control: accelerating the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem

Draft resolution proposed by Australia, Bhutan, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Eswatini, Israel, Kenya, Malaysia, Moldova, Monaco, Mozambique, Peru, Rwanda, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Zambia and the Member States of the European Union

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report on accelerating the elimination of cervical cancer as a global public health problem,¹

RECOMMENDS to the Seventy-third World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Seventy-third World Health Assembly,

(PP1) Having considered the report on accelerating the elimination of cervical cancer as a global public health problem;

(PP2) Reaffirming resolution WHA66.10 (2013) which endorsed the WHO global action plan for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases 2013–2020, and decision WHA72(11) (2019) in which the Health Assembly requested the Director-General to propose updates to the appendices of the global action plan, resolution WHA70.12 (2017) on cancer prevention and control in the context of an integrated approach, resolution WHA69.2 (2016) on committing to implementation of the Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health, and resolution WHA69.22 (2016) in which the Health Assembly adopted the global health sector strategies on HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections, for the period 2016–2021;

(PP3) Recalling the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage entitled “Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world”² (2019),

¹ Document EB146/9.

² United Nations General Assembly resolution 74/2.

including the commitment to further strengthen efforts to address noncommunicable diseases as part of universal health coverage, and the recognition that people's engagement, particularly of women and girls, families and communities, and the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders is one of the core components of health system governance, to fully empower all people in improving and protecting their own health;

(PP4) Recalling also the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (2018),¹ including the commitment to promote access to affordable diagnostics, screening, treatment and care, as well as vaccines that lower the risk of cancer, including cervical cancer, as part of the comprehensive approach to its prevention and control;

(PP5) Recalling further decision EB144(2) (2019) in which the Executive Board noted that urgent action is needed to scale up implementation of proven cost-effective measures towards achieving the elimination of cervical cancer as a global public health problem, including vaccination against human papillomavirus, screening and treatment of pre-cancer, early detection and prompt treatment of early invasive cancers, and palliative care, which will require political commitment and greater international cooperation and support for equitable access, including strategies for resource mobilization;

(PP6) Emphasizing that effective interventions for the prevention (including vaccination and screening) early detection, diagnosis, treatment and care of cervical cancer support the realization of the indivisible goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), Goal 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) and Goal 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries);

(PP7) Deeply concerned by the significant burden of mortality and morbidity from cervical cancer and the associated suffering and stigma experienced by women, families and communities, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, and concerned by the disproportionate burden in remote and hard-to-reach areas, on marginalized communities or those in vulnerable situations, and on women and girls living with HIV, who are more likely to develop cervical cancer;

(PP8) Recognizing the importance of a holistic health systems approach to cervical cancer prevention and control, with integration between vaccination programmes, screening and treatment programmes, adolescent health services, HIV and sexual and reproductive health services, and communicable disease and noncommunicable disease health services, as well as inclusive and strategic national, regional and global partnerships that extend beyond the health sector;

(PP9) Welcoming the prioritization of vaccination against human papillomavirus in girls as the most effective long-term intervention for reducing the risk of developing cervical cancer, and recognizing the critical importance of strengthening vaccine supply and access, including by improving affordability and reducing prices to facilitate its inclusion into national immunization programmes;

(PP10) Recognizing the urgent need to implement and scale-up cervical cancer screening and treatment programmes to reduce incidence and mortality; and to increase research and

¹ United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/2.

collaboration to develop cost-effective and innovative interventions for vaccination, screening, diagnosis, treatment and care in respect of cervical cancer, which could greatly increase the availability, affordability and accessibility of such interventions,

OP1. ADOPTS the global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem and its associated goals and targets for the period 2020–2030;

OP2. URGES Member States¹ to implement the interventions recommended in the global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem, adapted to national contexts and priorities, and embedded in strong health systems aimed at achieving universal health coverage;

OP3. CALLS UPON relevant international organizations and other relevant stakeholders:

(1) to give priority within their respective roles and activities to supporting implementation of the global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem, and to coordinate efforts in order to avoid duplication, close gaps and leverage domestic and international resources effectively;

(2) to work collaboratively to avoid shortages and strengthen the supply of quality, safe, effective and affordable vaccines, tests and diagnostics, medicines, radiotherapy and surgery in respect of human papillomavirus in order to meet the growing demand, including by reducing prices and increasing global and local production, and to develop further cost-effective, and innovative interventions for vaccination, screening, diagnosis, treatment and care;

OP4. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to provide support to Member States, upon request, in implementing the global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem, including support to: develop integrated national plans and strategies with appropriate country-specific targets; ensure integration of human papillomavirus vaccine into national immunization programmes and engagement with the education sector and community stakeholders, including to address vaccine confidence; improve the availability, affordability, accessibility, utilization and quality of screening, vaccines, diagnostics, medical devices and medicines used in the prevention, treatment and care of pre- and invasive cervical cancer, including radiotherapy, surgery and palliative care; and build health workforce capacity and strengthen systems for monitoring and surveillance;

(2) to prioritize support for high-burden countries to bring evidence-based interventions to scale, mindful of the particular challenges faced by low- and middle-income countries, and cognizant of the burden on vulnerable and marginalized communities, and on women and girls who are living with HIV;

(3) to collaborate closely with relevant international organizations and other partners and strengthen stakeholder engagement, coordination, research, innovation and resource mobilization to support implementation of the global strategy to accelerate the elimination

¹ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

of cervical cancer as a public health problem and to measure the impact of implementation, and to facilitate exchange of best practices among Member States;

(4) to report on progress in implementation of this resolution in 2022 and 2025 as part of the consolidated report to be submitted to the Health Assembly through the Executive Board under paragraph 3(e) of decision WHA72(11) (2019), and to submit a final report in 2030 with lessons learned, best practices and recommendations for further acceleration towards elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem.

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