Yellow fever risk mapping and recommended vaccination for travellers

The Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005): responding to public health emergencies;¹

Recalling the adoption by the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly of the updated Annex 7 of the International Health Regulations (2005);² and the report of the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on immunization,³ which concluded that a single dose of yellow fever vaccine is sufficient to confer sustained immunity and life-long protection against yellow fever, that a booster dose of yellow fever vaccine is not needed, and that the validity of a certificate of vaccination against yellow fever shall extend for the life of the person vaccinated;

Highlighting the fact that States Parties may immediately apply these changes even though Annex 7 of the International Health Regulations (2005), as amended, is expected to enter into force in June 2016, in accordance with Article 59 of the Regulations;

Noting that, for the purposes of Annex 7 of the International Health Regulations (2005), vaccination against yellow fever may be required of any traveller leaving an area where the Organization has determined that a risk of yellow fever transmission is present,

1. URGES Members States:⁴

   (1) during the interim period until June 2016, to inform WHO if they voluntarily accept to extend the validity of a certificate of vaccination against yellow fever for the life of the person vaccinated;

   (2) to comply with the WHO recommendation for the definition of areas at risk of yellow fever and of the yellow fever vaccination recommendations for travellers;

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¹ See document A68/22.
² See resolution WHA67.13 and document WHA67/2014/REC/1, Annex 5.
⁴ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.
2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to publish, and update in real time, an online list of countries accepting a certificate of vaccination against yellow fever for the life of the person vaccinated;

(2) to establish a formal scientific and technical advisory group on geographical yellow fever risk mapping, with the participation of countries with areas at risk of yellow fever, to: (i) maintain up-to-date yellow fever risk mapping; and (ii) provide guidance on yellow fever vaccination for travellers in ways that facilitate international travel.

Ninth plenary meeting, 26 May 2015
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