FOURTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE B

During its sixth, seventh and eighth meetings held on 23 and 24 May 1975 Committee B decided to recommend to the Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly the adoption of the attached resolutions relating to the following agenda items:

3.11 Health assistance to refugees and displaced persons in the Middle East
3.13 Use of German as a working language in the Regional Organization for Europe
3.12 Participation in the Regional Committee for Africa of Members not having their seat of government within the Region
3.16 Coordination with the United Nations system

3.16.1 General matters
(Five resolutions have been adopted on this agenda item)

3.16.2 Activities of the World Health Organization with regard to assistance to liberation movements in Southern Africa pursuant to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2918 (XXVII) and ECOSOC Resolution 1804 (LV)

3.16.3 World Population Year and Conference, 1974
HEALTH ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Recalling its resolution WHA27.42 on the health conditions of the refugees and displaced persons in the Middle East as well as the population of the occupied territories;

A

Having considered the Director-General's report on the health assistance to refugees and displaced persons in the Middle East, document A28/WP/1,

Mindful of the principle that the health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security,

Considering that Israel's deliberate destruction and devastation of refugee camps, cities and towns such as the destruction by Israel of the town of Kuneitra, gravely affects the physical and mental health of their inhabitants,

Deeply alarmed by the deterioration of health and living conditions of the Palestinian refugees, the displaced persons and the population of the occupied territories,

1. CALLS UPON Israel to immediately implement the relevant United Nations and World Health Assembly resolutions calling for the immediate return of the Palestinian refugees and displaced persons to their homes as well as the full implementation of the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war of August 1949,

2. REQUESTS the Director-General to allocate appropriate funds to be devoted to the improvement of the health conditions of the population in the occupied Arab territories,

3. FURTHER REQUESTS the Director-General to ensure that the above-mentioned funds be spent under the direct supervision of WHO and through the provision of its representatives in the occupied Arab territories.

B

Bearing in mind resolution WHA26.56 which established the Special Committee of Experts to study the health conditions of the inhabitants of the occupied territories in the Middle East,

Having received the report of the Special Committee and noting from its content that the Committee was refused, once again, to visit the Arab territories under Israeli occupation,

Aware of resolution WHA24.33 and the relevant provisions of the Constitution of WHO concerning the failure of Members to meet their obligations to the Organization,

1. CONDEMNS the refusal of Israel to cooperate with the Special Committee and calls once again upon its Government to cooperate with it and particularly to facilitate its free movement in the occupied territories,

2. EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION for the efforts of the Special Committee and urges it to continue its efforts in the accomplishment of its mandate and to report to the Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly,

3. REQUESTS the Director-General to continue to provide the Special Committee with all facilities necessary for the performance of its mission.
Noting General Assembly resolution 3236 (XXIX) concerning the question of Palestine and 3237 (XXIX) concerning granting the observer status of the Palestine Liberation Organization,

Bearing in mind its resolutions WHA27.36 and WHA27.37,

REQUESTS the Director-General to cooperate with the Palestinian Liberation Organization concerning assistance to be rendered to the Palestinian population.
USE OF GERMAN AS A WORKING LANGUAGE
IN THE REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR EUROPE

The Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Noting resolution EB55.R12 adopted by the Executive Board at its fifty-fifth session concerning the use of the German language in the Regional Organization for Europe,

1. SUPPORTS in principle the adoption of the German language as a working language of the Regional Committee for Europe;

2. REQUESTS the Regional Committee for Europe to examine at its twenty-fifth session proposals to be submitted by the Regional Director for the gradual implementation of the principle, taking into account the material and financial implications; and

3. REQUESTS the Director-General to examine, with a view to a decision to be taken at a later date, the material and financial implications of a phased extension of the use of the German language in the Regional Office for Europe.
PARTICIPATION IN THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR AFRICA OF MEMBERS NOT HAVING THEIR SEAT OF GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE REGION

The Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Having considered resolution AFR/RC24/R8 on the participation in the Regional Committee for Africa of Members not having their seat of government within the Region,

1. DECIDES to give effect to operative paragraph 4 of resolution AFR/RC24/R8 and to request the Director-General and the Regional Director to act accordingly;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General and the Regional Directors to bring these resolutions to the attention of other Regional Committees.
The Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the recommendations of the Executive Board on the Joint Inspection Unit's report on the use of travel funds in WHO,

Recalling resolutions WHA1.91, WHA1.139, WHA2.46 and EB5.R58;

Believing that the motive which led the World Health Assembly in resolutions WHA1.139 and WHA2.46 to authorize reimbursement to each Member of WHO of the actual travelling expenses for one delegate only was to ensure a representative character of the Health Assembly, and that this motive remains valid;

Considering that the functions and composition of the World Health Assembly as set forth in the Constitution are distinct and different from those of the Executive Board and that the independent nature of the Executive Board should be safeguarded,

1. DECIDES:

   (1) to maintain the existing practice of reimbursing each Member and Associate Member the actual travelling expenses of one delegate or representative only, the maximum reimbursement to be restricted to the equivalent of one first-class return air ticket from the capital city of the Member to the place of the session;

   (2) to maintain the existing practice of reimbursing members of the Executive Board for their actual travelling expenses between their normal residence and place of meeting of the Executive Board, the maximum reimbursement to be restricted to the equivalent of one first-class return air ticket from the capital city of the member to the place of the session;

2. NOTES the Executive Board's decision concerning reimbursement of travelling expenses to members of expert committees, study groups and scientific groups.
COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: GENERAL MATTERS

The Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Director-General on coordination with other organizations of the United Nations system on general matters;

Endorsing the action taken by the Executive Board at its fifty-fifth session following its examination of the report of the Director-General on this subject, particularly with regard to resolutions EB55.R56, EB55.R61, EB55.R64 and EB55.R65;

Remaining aware that effective collaboration and cooperation with other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system requires continuous effort through the coordination of programmes and policies aimed at enhancing the United Nations system's total impact on development and other goals to which Member States aspire;

Reaffirming that health is an essential sector for development requiring integration with other necessary components such as education, agriculture, employment, and housing, and to this end foresees the strengthening of WHO's participation in the collective activities of the United Nations system,

1. THANKS the Director-General for his report;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General to continue to bring those developments which occur within the United Nations system of interest to the Organization to the attention of the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly as appropriate;

3. FURTHER REQUESTS the Director-General to ensure the fullest involvement of the Organization in those programmes of other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system which have a direct relevance to the health and social well-being of people.
COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
GENERAL MATTERS

Tasks of WHO in connexion with International Women's Year

The Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Considering that the present year has been proclaimed International Women's Year by the Twenty-seventh Session of the United Nations General Assembly and is being observed as such under the slogan "Attainment of equal rights for women and full integration of women into political, economic, social and cultural life so that they can make an active contribution to the further development of friendship between the peoples of all countries and to the strengthening of peace";

Noting that the goals established by International Women's Year, including the granting to women of equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities with men, are closely bound up with the protection and improvement of women's health and with the development of social and medical services and maternal and child care;

Recalling resolutions WHA1.43 and EB55.R56 and other WHO decisions aimed at the active implementation of projects concerning medical care for women and children and also the participation of WHO in International Women's Year;

Emphasizing the supreme importance of protecting the health of women and children, who embody the future of every country and of all mankind, as is noted in resolution WHA23.61;

Emphasizing the ever more important role of women in medicine, in the work of the public health bodies and institutions of the Member States of WHO,

1. COMMENDS the Director-General and the Secretariat for the preparation and distribution of the January 1975 issue of World Health;

2. URGES governments:

   (a) to widen the range of opportunities for women in all facets of social and economic life as they relate to health and including training opportunities so that women may have the potential to participate fully as partners for progress;

   (b) to assure the further integration of women in health activities, by undertaking short-term and long-term measures, based on national reviews of the major obstacles and constraints in the employment and participation of women;

   (c) to nominate women at an increasing rate for WHO fellowships for training abroad so that fellowships are shared more equally;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

   (a) to arrange for active participation by WHO representatives in the International Conference and the main activities conducted by the United Nations under the programme for International Women's Year;

   (b) to draw up recommendations for consequent action by WHO and its Member States in the interests of the development of medical and social programmes and adequate maternal and child health, population and other services;

   (c) to consider women on an equal basis with men for positions in WHO at headquarters and in the regions, and to make a concerted effort to increase the number of women in professional positions and especially in positions of policy determination;
(d) to assist Member States, upon request, in preparing national strategies, programmes and projects in WHO's field of competence for the participation of women in the economic, social and cultural life of their countries directed toward the achievement of maximum human potential;

4. RECOMMENDS that in WHO's current activities and in the establishment of the Organization's sixth general programme of work particular attention be paid to the problem of protecting the health of mothers and children and of working women;

5. REQUESTS the Director-General to report to the fifty-seventh session of the Executive Board and Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly, the results of WHO's participation in International Women's Year and its planned activities as well as progress in implementing this resolution as well as the decisions of the Conference and their implications for WHO.
COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: GENERAL MATTERS

UNDP-supported activities and those financed from other extrabudgetary sources

The Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Director-General on Coordination with the United Nations System, General Matters,1 and resolution EB55.R59,2

1. NOTES the report;

2. APPROVES the continued collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and other organizations and funds providing extrabudgetary resources for health activities and particularly UNFPA, UNEP and UNFDAC;

3. NOTES with satisfaction the cooperation with UNICEF and the Memorandum of Understanding designed to govern the future collaboration between UNICEF and the Organization;

4. WELCOMES the steps taken to consolidate understanding with the World Bank and to develop joint projects with the Regional Banks and especially with the African Development Bank and the African Development Fund;

5. NOTES with satisfaction the continued positive collaboration with the World Food Programme in making food resources available for development programmes and reminds governments of the use of such resources in furthering large-scale health-related projects;

6. NOTES with appreciation the support given by governments and other donors to the Voluntary Fund for Health Promotion and hopes this trend will increase;

7. NOTES that the Executive Board in its Organizational Study on "The Planning for and Impact of Extra-Budgetary Resources on WHO's Programmes and Policy" will make firm recommendations regarding the mechanisms needed both within the Organization and with national administrations, to achieve effective planning and coordination of extrabudgetary resources for health and to ensure that support for health is recognized as an essential requirement of development;

8. WELCOMES the current trend in UNDP, UNFPA and other bodies towards further decentralization of their operations to the country level;

9. SUPPORTS the action taken by the Director-General to strengthen collaboration at country level in the planning and execution of UNDP-assisted projects with the full participation of the national authorities concerned;

10. REQUESTS the Director-General

   (i) to continue his efforts to enhance the role of the Organization as an effective instrument for the coordination of extrabudgetary resources for health work for the benefit of the developing countries;

   (ii) to emphasize the importance of health as an essential component in the development process, particularly within the context of country and intercountry programmes;

   (iii) to continue his cooperation with extrabudgetary resources of funds including the World Bank and the Regional Banks and bilateral donors.

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1 Document A28/23 Add.1.
The Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Having reviewed the report by the Director-General on the participation of the Organization in the World Food Conference and in the follow-up of its recommendation;

Noting the action taken by the Executive Board at its fifty-fifth session;¹

Recognizing the magnitude and severity of malnutrition as a major public health problem in the world; and

Considering the important role the health sector can play in a variety of activities related to food and nutrition;

1. NOTES with satisfaction the action taken by the Director-General;
2. ENDORSES the views of the Executive Board as contained in resolution EB55.R69;
3. RECOMMENDS that Member States:
   (a) strengthen their programmes for the control of prevailing nutritional deficiencies;
   (b) develop coordinated multisectoral policies and plans designed to improve the food and nutrition situation and strategies for their implementation as an important immediate objective of socioeconomic development programmes;
4. REQUESTS the Director-General:
   (a) to accord high priority to assistance to countries in programmes for the surveillance and early control of different forms of malnutrition and to develop suitable manpower resources within and outside the health sector;
   (b) to continue to cooperate with other Organizations to ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the World Food Conference;
   (c) to seek the necessary additional funds to ensure the inclusion of health and nutrition components in activities appropriate to the fulfilment of the recommendations of the World Food Conference, relating to services with manpower development and problem-solving research as supportive measures.

¹ Resolution EB55.R69.
COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM
ACTIVITIES OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION WITH REGARD TO ASSISTANCE
TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA PURSUANT TO THE UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2918 (XXVII) AND ECOSOC
RESOLUTION 1804 (LV)

The Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly,

I

Having considered the report of the Director-General on the activities of the Organization regarding assistance to national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity;

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and WHA27.36;

Noting that the provision of assistance to the national liberation movements concerned requires a concerted effort by the United Nations system and that efficient ways and means must be found both to identify the needs of the peoples and to deliver the assistance required in the most rapid and effective manner,

1. THANKS the Director-General for his report;

2. ENDORSES the decision taken by the Executive Board at its fifty-fifth session in resolution EB55.R51, adopted following its review of the report submitted by the Director-General;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General to work closely with the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity to help identify and meet their health needs;

4. FURTHER REQUESTS the Director-General to continue to collaborate with UNDP, UNICEF, Organization of African Unity, and other concerned organizations in rendering the necessary assistance to programmes to combat the health problems facing the liberation movements.

II

Recalling resolution WHA27.37;

Taking into account the views of the Executive Board at its fifty-fifth session and the recommendation made to the World Health Assembly in resolution EB55.R51 concerning representation by each of the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity or the League of Arab States at WHO meetings of direct interest to them;

Agreeing that future representation in an observer capacity by the national liberation movements concerned would facilitate the Organization's understanding of the health needs and problems of the peoples whose aspirations they represent,

DECIDES that one representative from each of the national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity or the League of Arab States at future meetings to which they are invited in accordance with resolution WHA27.37 be reimbursed actual travel expenses and be paid the standard daily travel subsistence allowance for officials of the Secretariat, with the maximum reimbursement for travel expenses restricted to the equivalent of one first-class return air ticket between the normal place of residence and the place of the meeting.
COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM:
WORLD POPULATION YEAR AND CONFERENCE, 1974

The Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Director-General on the World Population Year and Conference, 1974,

1. NOTES with satisfaction the various technical and scientific contributions made by the Organization towards the preparatory and supportive activities of the Population Year and Conference;

2. WELCOMES the emphasis given in the World Population Plan of Action to the interrelationships of population and socioeconomic development, and in turn to the required national and international efforts in health and nutrition for enhanced quality of life, particularly in the rural and the underserved areas;

3. APPRECIATES that such a comprehensive approach to population, health and development in the context of national policies is basic to the work of many of the organizations in the United Nations system;

4. STRESSES the urgency of reducing maternal, perinatal, infant and childhood mortality and morbidity through the continued development and improved management of maternal and child health services and other aspects of family health care;

5. RECOGNIZES the need to improve health through support to research on all aspects of human reproduction, including methods of fertility regulation and the impact of family planning on health and on optimal physical and psychosocial development of the child;

6. URGES Member States to take the initiative in organizing national follow-up activities in the health-related aspects recommended in the World Population Plan of Action;

7. REQUESTS the Director-General to intensify activities related to family health care as part of the strengthening of health services and to participate fully in the development of activities in the sectors of the World Population Plan of Action related to health.