THIRTY-SEVENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Agenda item 19

THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN THE STRATEGIES FOR HEALTH FOR ALL

Draft resolution proposed by the delegations of the following countries: Australia, Greece, Ireland, Malta and the Netherlands

The Thirty-seventh World Health Assembly,

Appreciating the outcome of the Technical Discussions held at the Thirty-seventh World Health Assembly on "The role of universities in the strategies for health for all";

Mindful of the important role assigned to universities and other higher learning institutions including colleges for post-graduate medical training in the Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000 and of the significant contribution that the fulfilment of such a role could make to human development and social justice;

Aware of the prestige that universities carry and the influence they have in developing the minds of young people and in preparing them for their role in society as well as in forming public opinion;

Recalling the functions of universities in providing education and training in the fields of health and in a wide variety of social, economic and technical disciplines having a bearing on health, as well as their outstanding contributions to research in these areas;

Keeping in mind the growing involvement of universities throughout the world in grappling with social challenges and in providing services to communities in which they are situated;

Convinced that there is an increased need for collaboration between governments and universities in order to deal adequately with health and related socioeconomic problems;

Appreciating that governments and universities are becoming increasingly aware of the vast untapped resources in the universities that could be mobilized in furtherance of health and socioeconomic development;

1. URGES Member States

   (1) to encourage universities and other higher learning institutions to include the social and technical concepts of health for all in the education and training of all categories of students and post-graduates and to acquaint the general public with these concepts;

   (2) to support universities in orienting the education and training of workers in the health and related fields towards the attainment of health for all;

   (3) to involve appropriate faculties in universities, wherever applicable, in the preparation of policies for health for all and in the formulation and implementation of strategies to give effect to these policies.

2. INVITES universities throughout the world

   (1) to ensure that students and post-graduates in all faculties are adequately acquainted with the goal of health for all by the year 2000 and the measures for attaining it;
(2) to provide the kind of education and training for students and post-graduates in the health and related disciplines that will prepare them technically and attune them socially to meet the health needs of the people they are to serve;

(3) to conduct scientific, technological, social, economic and behavioural research required to prepare and carry out strategies for health for all;

(4) to offer to increase their collaboration with governments for the preparation of policies and formulation and implementation of strategies for health for all;

(5) to place themselves at the disposal of communities to the maximum of their capacity for the promotion of health and provision of health care;

(6) to participate in creating awareness in the general public of the action people can take to promote their health and the health of the communities in which they live.

3. REQUESTS the Director-General

(1) to publish a report on the Technical Discussions and ensure its wide distribution among governments, universities and other institutions of higher education, and other interested parties;

(2) to ensure in all appropriate fora WHO's advocacy of the proper role of universities in the strategies for health for all and of the related collaboration required between governments and universities;

(3) to provide governments and universities with information that will facilitate the assumption by universities of their role in strategies for health for all;

(4) to support governments on request in increasing the involvement of universities in national health development efforts;

(5) to collect and disseminate information on the involvement of universities in the strategies for health for all and on joint endeavours of governments and universities to this end;

(6) to carry out the above within available resources, and to report on developments in his biennial reports to the Health Assembly.