ERADICATION OF POLIOMYELITIS

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report of the Director-General on the Expanded Programme on Immunization which emphasizes the need to accelerate progress, particularly in implementing the initiative to eradicate poliomyelitis by the year 2000;¹

RECOMMENDS to the Forty-sixth World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Forty-sixth World Health Assembly,

Noting the report of the Director-General on the Expanded Programme on Immunization which emphasizes the need to accelerate progress, particularly in implementing the initiative to eradicate poliomyelitis by the year 2000;

Appreciating the progress towards the goal of poliomyelitis eradication being made in all WHO regions;

Congratulating the countries of the Region of the Americas on having had no cases of poliomyelitis caused by wild poliovirus for over one year;

Noting resolution WPR/RC39.R15 of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific on the regional eradication of poliomyelitis by the year 1995;

Recognizing the major concern expressed by the Programme's Global Advisory Group about "the absence of political will on the part of some industrialized countries, developing countries and donors to make poliomyelitis eradication a sufficiently high priority";

Warning that the goal of global poliomyelitis eradication will not be achieved unless there is a continuing acceleration of national immunization programmes;

Emphasizing that eradication of poliomyelitis will strengthen the Programme's activities against other diseases, conserve financial resources currently committed to vaccine purchase and medical and rehabilitative care, improve surveillance, strengthen laboratory services, render delivery systems more effective and increase community participation;

Recalling resolutions WHA41.28, WHA42.32, WHA44.33 and WHA45.17 of the Health Assembly and the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children, which set goals for

¹ Document EB91/15.
the 1990s, including the global eradication of poliomyelitis, the elimination of neonatal tetanus and the reduction of measles morbidity and mortality;

1. REAFFIRMS that the goal of global eradication of poliomyelitis by the year 2000 is achievable;

2. CONFIRMS WHO's commitment to the eradication of poliomyelitis as one of its highest priorities for global health work;

3. ENDORSES the revised plan of action, including the establishment and extension of poliomyelitis-free zones and the confirmation of the absence of wild poliovirus transmission in those zones;

4. APPRECIATES the commitment, support and coordinated actions of UNICEF and other organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental agencies and governmental and nongovernmental organizations, in particular Rotary International;

5. URGES Member States:

   (1) to reaffirm their commitment to the national eradication of poliomyelitis and make available the staff and resources necessary to achieve eradication;

   (2) to implement the essential policies and strategies in the global plan of action;

   (3) to develop effective surveillance for cases of acute flaccid paralysis and persistent wild poliovirus circulation among the population and in the environment;

   (4) to strengthen rehabilitation services for children disabled by poliomyelitis and other paralytic illnesses;

6. CALLS ON organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental agencies, and governmental and nongovernmental organizations to support countries committed to poliomyelitis eradication by cooperating in the planning and implementation of essential activities, ensuring provision of adequate quantities of poliovaccine for supplementary immunization, supporting the development of the poliovirus laboratory network, and providing technical assistance on surveillance and immunization;

7. REQUESTS the Director-General:

   (1) to implement the measures necessary to achieve the global eradication of poliomyelitis by the year 2000, particularly plans, budgetary support and organizational activities necessary for coordinated health work;

   (2) to support countries in obtaining sufficient quantities of vaccine meeting WHO quality requirements for both routine and supplementary immunization, including local production or bottling of bulk vaccine, as appropriate;

   (3) to cooperate with countries in identifying their other needs with regard to implementing the essential measures to achieve poliomyelitis eradication, including logistics and cold-chain systems, laboratory services, and surveillance;

   (4) to work with other organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental agencies and governmental and nongovernmental organizations to mobilize sufficient funding for vaccine supply and to meet other requirements for the eradication of poliomyelitis;

   (5) to monitor progress on a monthly basis through reports of detected cases of acute flaccid paralysis, confirmed cases of poliomyelitis and indicators of surveillance performance;

   (6) to continue to pursue basic and operational research relevant to poliomyelitis eradication;
(7) to keep the Executive Board and the Health Assembly informed of progress towards the global eradication of poliomyelitis by the year 2000.

Thirteenth meeting, 25 January 1993
EB91/SR/13