

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

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Agenda item 7

RESOLUTIONS OF REGIONAL AND GENERAL INTEREST
ADOPTED BY THE TWENTY-SIXTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY AND BY
THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS FIFTY-FIRST AND FIFTY-SECOND SESSIONS

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Regional Director has the honour to bring to the attention of the Regional Committee the following resolutions which were adopted by the Twenty-sixth World Health Assembly and by the Executive Board during its Fifty-first and Fifty-second Sessions.

2. WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

AWARD OF THE DR A. T. SHOUSHA FOUNDATION MEDAL AND PRIZE, WHA26.6

The Twenty-sixth World Health Assembly

1. NOTES the report of the Dr A. T. Shousha Foundation Committee;¹
2. ENDORSES the proposal of the Committee for the award of the Dr A. T. Shousha Foundation Medal and Prize for 1973;
3. AWARDS the Medal and Prize to Professor Mansour Haseeb; and
4. PAYS TRIBUTE to Professor Mansour Haseeb for his most significant contribution to public health in the geographical area in which Dr A. T. Shousha served the World Health Organization.

REVOLVING FUND FOR TEACHING AND LABORATORY EQUIPMENT, WHA26.25

The Twenty-sixth World Health Assembly,

Recognizing that shortage of medical literature is a serious obstacle to the improvement of medical education, to postgraduate training and to the development of medical research, especially in developing countries; and

Having considered the report of the Director-General and the recommendation of the Executive Board thereon,

DECIDES that the revolving fund established by the Nineteenth World Health Assembly (resolution WHA19.7) may be used by Members also for the purchase of medical literature, subject to the conditions for such use set forth in the report of the Director-General.

¹ Documents A26/5 and A26/6.

SMALLPOX ERADICATION PROGRAMME, WHA26.29

The Twenty-sixth World Health Assembly,

Having considered¹ the Director-General's report on the smallpox eradication programme,

Appreciating the decisive contribution made to the global eradication effort by the many countries who have succeeded in eliminating endemic smallpox and recognizing with gratitude the efforts being made by those where the disease still exists,

Noting with concern, however, that in some areas of the countries where endemic smallpox persists the situation presently appears more serious than in previous years,

Re-affirming, therefore, the necessity to make every possible effort to ensure the speedy progress of eradication and to maintain it where it is achieved,

1. REQUESTS all countries to give the highest priority to the smallpox eradication programme, with particular emphasis on active surveillance, so as to interrupt transmission of the disease at the earliest possible time in the areas where it is still endemic and to prevent re-occurrence of the disease in countries from which it has been eliminated;
2. REQUESTS the Director-General to continue to give all necessary assistance to the countries concerned in order to support and accelerate national eradication efforts, to determine through independent evaluation whether eradication has actually been achieved, and to identify the additional resources both national and international which may be required for the successful completion of the programme;
3. THANKS the countries that have generously contributed to the programme, either bilaterally or through the WHO Voluntary Fund for Health Promotion, in the confident hope that continued support will be provided to the programme, especially during the critical years ahead.

¹ Document A26/7

HEALTH ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WHA26.56

The Twenty-sixth World Health Assembly,

A

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

Considering that the non-return of the Palestinian refugees and displaced persons to their homes is gravely affecting their physical and mental health,

Having considered document A26/WP/5,

1. REAFFIRMS that the protection of the life and physical and mental health of the refugees and displaced persons necessitates that they immediately be afforded their right to return to their homes, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;
2. CALLS upon Israel to refrain from such practices as the destruction of the refugee shelters and the dispersal of the refugees;
3. REQUESTS the Director-General to intensify and expand to the largest extent possible the Organization's programme of health assistance to the refugees and displaced persons in the Middle East.

B

Conscious of its responsibilities to ensure adequate health conditions for all peoples particularly those who suffer from exceptional circumstances such as military occupation,

Having examined document A26/21,

Considering that the need for gathering and verifying facts on health conditions of the inhabitants of the occupied territories requires a comprehensive field investigation and contact with all parties directly concerned;

Bearing in mind the principles enshrined in the Constitution of the World Health Organization,

1. DECIDES to establish a special committee of experts appointed by three Member States chosen by the fifty-second session of the Executive Board in consultation with the Director-General to study the health conditions of the inhabitants of the occupied territories in the Middle East, in all its aspects and to submit a comprehensive report on its findings to the Twenty-seventh World Health Assembly;
2. REQUESTS the Special Committee to contact all governments and institutions concerned, and obtain from them all necessary and relevant information on the situation;
3. REQUESTS the governments concerned to cooperate with the Special Committee and particularly to facilitate its free movement in the occupied territories;
4. REQUESTS the Director-General to provide the Special Committee with all facilities necessary for the performance of its mission.

3. EXECUTIVE BOARD

3.1 FIFTY-FIRST SESSION

SMALLPOX ERADICATION PROGRAMME, EB51.R26

The Executive Board,

Noting with gratification the progress of the Smallpox Eradication Programme,

1. EXPRESSES

(a) its deep gratitude to those countries which have been able to complete the eradication of endemic smallpox, to those still engaged in the effort to do so and to the WHO staff concerned; and

(b) the expectation that every country will maintain that combination of strict surveillance and vaccination appropriate to its circumstance;

2. RECOMMENDS that the maximum effort should be developed by the Organization and those countries where the disease is still endemic in order to complete eradication at the earliest possible time.

3.2 FIFTY-SECOND SESSION

HEALTH ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE
MIDDLE EAST, EB52.R21

The Executive Board,

Considering resolution WHA26.56 on health assistance to refugees and displaced persons in the Middle East,

1. DECIDES to refer to an ad hoc Committee composed of Dr Esther Ammundsen, Dr A. Sauter and Professor J. Tigyi the selection of the three Member States to appoint members to serve on the Special Committee of Experts in accordance with operative paragraph 1 of part B of resolution WHA26.56;
2. RECALLS its discussions on the subject of the criteria for the selection of the three Member States as well as of the composition of the Special Committee of Experts, with particular reference to the fields of specialization of the Experts to be appointed;
3. ASKS the ad hoc Committee to begin by contacting those Members mentioned in the Executive Board's discussion and to complete the membership of the Special Committee of Experts as soon as possible and preferably before 15 July 1973;
4. REQUESTS the ad hoc Committee to report on the action taken to the Executive Board at its fifty-third session.

II RESOLUTIONS OF GENERAL INTEREST

The attention of the delegations is also drawn to some other resolutions¹ which are of general importance in our health programme.

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| 1 | WHA26.30 | Quality, Safety and Efficacy of Drugs |
| | WHA26.31 | Quality, Safety and Efficacy of Drugs |
| | WHA26.35 | Organizational Study on Methods of Promoting the Development of Basic Health Services |
| | WHA26.36 | Future organizational Study by the Executive Board: "Interrelationships between the central technical services of WHO and programmes of direct assistance to Member States" |
| | WHA26.38 | Feasibility of Introducing a Biennial Programme & Budget |
| | WHA26.49 | Co-ordination with the United Nations System: General Matters |
| | WHA26.55 | Additional Regulations of 23 May 1973 Amending the International Health Regulations (1969), in Particular with Respect to Articles 1, 21, 63-71 and 92 |
| | WHA26.58 | WHO's Programme for Human Health and Environment |
| | WHA26.59 | Development of Environmental Manpower |