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**CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF REGIONAL INTEREST ADOPTED
BY THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

CONTENTS

	Page
1. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR HEALTH FOR ALL BY THE YEAR 2000: SECOND EVALUATION AND EIGHTH REPORT ON THE WORLD HEALTH SITUATION (WHA45.4 AND EB89.R6)	1
2. STRENGTHENING NURSING AND MIDWIFERY IN SUPPORT OF STRATEGIES FOR HEALTH FOR ALL (WHA45.5)	1
3. IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINE QUALITY (WHA45.17 AND EB89.R8)	2
4. COLLABORATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: GENERAL MATTERS (WHA45.18 and EB89.R15)	2
5. COLLABORATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: GENERAL MATTERS - MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION ON WHO'S PROGRAMME ON TOBACCO OR HEALTH (WHA45.20)	3
6. CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT: HEALTH OF THE NEWBORN (WHA45.22)	3
7. COLLABORATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: GENERAL MATTERS - HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT (WHA45.24)	3
8. COLLABORATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: GENERAL MATTERS - WOMEN, HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT (WHA45.25)	4
9. WHO ACTION PROGRAMME ON ESSENTIAL DRUGS (WHA45.27)	4
10. HARMONIZING DRUG REGULATIONS (WHA45.28)	5
11. WHO ETHICAL CRITERIA FOR MEDICINAL DRUG PROMOTION (WHA45.30)	5
12. HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT (WHA45.31)	6
13. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR OVERCOMING MICRONUTRIENT MALNUTRITION (WHA45.33)	6
14. INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD NUTRITION (PROGRESS AND EVALUATION REPORT; AND STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF MARKETING OF BREAST-MILK SUBSTITUTES) (WHA45.34)	7
15. GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF AIDS (WHA45.35 AND EB89.R19)	7

Attention of the Regional Committee is invited to the following resolutions (copies enclosed) adopted by the forty-fifth World Health Assembly and the eighty-ninth session of the Executive Board which are of interest to the South-East Asia Region.

1. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR HEALTH FOR ALL BY THE YEAR 2000: SECOND EVALUATION AND EIGHTH REPORT ON THE WORLD HEALTH SITUATION (WHA45.4 AND EB89.R6)

The World Health Assembly appreciated the participation of Member States in the second evaluation of the Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000 and approved the report on the evaluation.

The Assembly urged Member States to use the results of country-level evaluations, along with the global and regional reviews, to define a new operational framework for public health action; to maintain high-level political commitment to equity in the implementation of national strategies for Health for All; to intensify action aimed at strengthening the health infrastructure based on primary health care; to review and redefine the role of governments in ensuring universal access to integrated health services of acceptable quality; and to improve the production, allocation and utilization of financial, human and technological resources in order to meet high priority health needs.

2. STRENGTHENING NURSING AND MIDWIFERY IN SUPPORT OF STRATEGIES FOR HEALTH FOR ALL (WHA45.5)

The Assembly, having considered the Director-General's report on strengthening nursing and midwifery in support of Strategies for Health for All and recalling its resolution WHA42.27, expressed concern at the continued shortage of nursing and midwifery personnel throughout the world.

Expressing its commitment to the promotion of nursing and midwifery in all countries, the Assembly urged Member States to identify their nursing and midwifery service needs; to strengthen managerial and leadership capabilities of nursing and midwifery personnel; to enact legislation, where necessary, to ensure good nursing and midwifery practices; and to strengthen education in nursing and midwifery. The Assembly also urged Member States to ensure proper working conditions in order to sustain the motivation of personnel and improve the quality of services; to ensure the allocation of adequate resources for nursing and midwifery activities; and to reflect the contribution of nursing and midwifery in health policies.

In this connection, the Assembly requested the Director-General to establish a global multidisciplinary advisory group

on nursing and midwifery, with the expressed purpose of advising the Director-General on all nursing and midwifery services, *inter alia*, on developing mechanisms for assessing national nursing and midwifery service needs.

3. IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINE QUALITY (WHA45.17 AND EB89.R8)

The Assembly commended Member States on their achievement of 80 per cent immunization coverage of the world's children in the first year of life and recalled its resolutions WHA41.28, WHA42.32 and WHA44.33 and the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children, which set goals for the 1990s, its resolution WHA35.31 relating to the use of only those vaccines that meet WHO requirements, and resolution WHA42.32 endorsing the plan of action for the eradication of poliomyelitis which calls for universal use, by the end of 1990, of polio vaccine meeting WHO requirements. Being aware that the Global Advisory Group has set operational targets for the introduction of Hepatitis B vaccine in immunization programmes, the Assembly urged Member States, *inter alia*, to use only vaccines that meet WHO requirements in the immunization programmes; to ensure the proper functioning of the cold chain and the logistic systems to maintain vaccine potency until the time of use; and to integrate cost-effective new vaccines, such as Hepatitis B vaccine, into national immunization programmes where feasible.

4. COLLABORATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: GENERAL MATTERS (WHA45.18 and EB89.R15)

The Assembly considered United Nations General Assembly resolutions 44/211 and 46/219 on operational activities for development of the United Nations system and noted the comments and observations of the WHO regional committees, as consolidated in the reports of the Director-General. Emphasizing that the actions and strategies determined by the Assembly during recent years addressed the objectives and themes set out in United Nations General Assembly resolution 44/211, the Assembly welcomed the emphasis given to the human dimension of development, to the need to reach the poorest and most vulnerable sections of the society, and to the full utilization of national capabilities.

Reaffirming the need for coordination within the United Nations system vis-a-vis development cooperation activities, the Assembly recalled WHO's constitutional mandate to act as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work, to cooperate with governments in strengthening health services and to provide technical assistance.

In this context, the Assembly considered that the mechanisms applied by WHO in the development and implementation of its programmes of technical cooperation are in consonance with national aspirations and approaches and with the development

objectives identified in the United Nations General Assembly resolution 44/211.

5. COLLABORATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: GENERAL MATTERS - MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION ON WHO'S PROGRAMME ON TOBACCO OR HEALTH (WHA45.20)

The Assembly noted the relevance of the collaboration within the United Nations system in approaching issues such as "tobacco or health".

It recalled its resolutions WHA42.19 and WHA43.16 regarding the socioeconomic and development implications of tobacco in the countries that depend on tobacco production as a major source of income, and reaffirmed the need for multisectoral strategies, including the involvement of other members of the United Nations system in dealing with the complexities and difficulties of the subject of "tobacco or health".

Recalling the Executive Board's decision at its eighty-ninth session (EB89.16) on the action taken by the Director-General in reporting to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and concerned about the lack of appropriate follow-up activities to the Director-General's report, the Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations to put the subject of "tobacco or health" on the agenda of its next session.

6. CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT: HEALTH OF THE NEWBORN (WHA45.22)

The Assembly, recalling its resolutions WHA35.55 and WHA32.42 on maternal and child health and family planning, and having considered the Director-General's report on "Child health and development; the health of the newborn", reaffirmed WHO's commitment to the goals of the World Summit for Children. Further noting that inadequate attention to the health of the pregnant women and the newborn results in markedly increased likelihood of death, ill-health or disability during later infancy, childhood and even adult life, urged all Member States to train those providing maternal and child health care in the principles and techniques of risk screening during pregnancy, clean and safe delivery, resuscitation, thermal control and breastfeeding and to strengthen the monitoring and surveillance system for maternal and perinatal health.

7. COLLABORATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: GENERAL MATTERS - HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT (WHA45.24)

The Assembly, recognizing that health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being, and taking into consideration the

Accra Initiative on Health, expressed concern about the intolerable health situation of the most vulnerable groups.

Recognizing that the health status is related to basic education, access to relevant information and economic productivity and realizing the urgency of integrated cost-effective health interventions with suitable economic and development policies and strategies, the Assembly urged Member States to take necessary measures to ensure the achievement of the goal of Health for All by the Year 2000; to take specific steps to improve the health status of the most vulnerable population groups, and to analyse the health impact of existing and future development projects and implement necessary protective measures to safeguard, promote and improve the health status of affected populations while exploring the feasibility of creating alternative financial arrangements for the improvement of the health status of vulnerable population groups.

8. COLLABORATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: GENERAL MATTERS - WOMEN, HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT (WHA45.25)

The Assembly, recalling its many resolutions over the years, and the most recent one on Women, Health and Development (resolution WHA44.42), which called for action to be taken in areas such as women's education, gender-specific research, safe motherhood and income-generating opportunities for women, noted the lack of information on the results of implementation of these resolutions; the lack of adequate gender-specific data and insufficient knowledge on the gender-specific consequences of diseases in women. The Assembly, taking into consideration the report on the Technical Discussions on "Women, health and development", held in conjunction with the Forty-fifth World Health Assembly, urged Member States to establish a system for reporting on the extent to which existing resolutions have been implemented in their countries and to take steps to include at least one woman in their delegations to the World Health Assembly.

The Assembly further requested the Director-General to establish, in 1992, a Global Commission on Women's Health, consisting of political, scientific and professional leaders throughout the world, the largest number of whom would be women, with due respect to equitable geographical representation and who would serve in their personal capacities, the terms of reference of which include, *inter alia*, producing an agenda for action on women's health; and making policy-makers aware of issues relating to women's health by using gender-specific, disaggregated data on women's socioeconomic and health conditions.

9. WHO ACTION PROGRAMME ON ESSENTIAL DRUGS (WHA45.27)

The Assembly, recalling its resolutions WHA37.32, WHA37.27, WHA39.27, WHA41.16, WHA41.17, WHA41.18 and WHA43.20 for ensuring

that adequate human and financial resources are provided for the WHO Action Programme on Essential Drugs, and to seek extrabudgetary resources in addition to those in the Regular Budget, expressed satisfaction with the Programme's accelerated activities and strengthened collaboration with Member States through intensified support to countries. The Assembly noted that Member States, development agencies etc. are increasingly responding to the challenge of making essential drugs and vaccines of good quality available to those who need them. However, the Assembly recognized that well over half the population of developing countries still lacks regular access to the most needed essential drugs and that socioeconomic decline in the developing world has made progress difficult. Reaffirming the continued validity of the essential drugs concept as a means of achieving greater equity of access to safe and effective medicines, the Assembly urged Member States to increase their efforts to demonstrate the required political will and to make optimal use of the momentum gained in implementing national drug programmes consistent with WHO's revised drug strategy and to utilize global and local experience in developing national drug policies and in strengthening national drug infrastructure based on the concept of the WHO Model List of Essential Drugs.

10. HARMONIZING DRUG REGULATIONS (WHA45.28)

The Assembly, recalling its resolutions WHA26.30, WHA28.65 relating to implementation of an international drug information system and good manufacturing practices respectively, and resolutions WHA37.33, WHA39.27 and WHA41.60 on rational use of drugs, recognized that international harmonization of technical requirements for drug registration will contribute to reducing the cost of pharmaceuticals, increase their availability worldwide and accelerate the development of new drugs. The Assembly urged Member States to complete the implementation of their national drug strategies, including a full inventory of drugs available in their markets; and to review and adopt, where appropriate, internationally-accepted standards for the testing and registration of pharmaceuticals and biologicals.

**11. WHO ETHICAL CRITERIA FOR MEDICINAL DRUG PROMOTION
(WHA45.30)**

The Assembly, recalling its resolutions WHA41.17 and WHA43.20, and having considered the report on the use of the WHO ethical criteria for medicinal drug promotion, noted that little information is available on any progress made in controlling medicinal drug promotion through the use of concepts embodied in the WHO ethical criteria. The Assembly also noted that many drug regulatory authorities do not yet have the administrative resources to regulate drug promotion, and, therefore, a high level of compliance and self-regulation by the pharmaceutical industry is necessary. In the context of the above, the Assembly

urged Member States to intensify efforts to involve government agencies, including drug regulatory authorities as well as pharmaceutical manufacturers, distributors and the promotion industry, health personnel, universities and other teaching institutions, professional associations, patient consumer groups and the professional and general media in the implementation of the principles embodied in the WHO ethical criteria on medicinal drug promotion.

12. HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT (WHA45.31)

The Assembly considered the reports of the Director-General on the WHO Commission on Health and Environment, the International Programme on Chemical Safety, and the evaluation of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, and noted specifically the Commission's recommendations for protecting and promoting human health in the context of environmental and developmental challenges. The Assembly also recalled its resolutions WHA39.22, WHA40.18, WHA42.25, WHA42.26, WHA44.27, and WHA44.28 giving prominence to the principles of sustainable development, the need to incorporate health considerations into economic development planning, intersectoral action for health and protection and promotion of health among rapidly expanding populations in urban areas.

The Assembly therefore called upon Member States to keep the implications of the Commission's report of public health policies and practices under review.

In this connection, the Assembly requested the Director-General, *inter alia*, to formulate a new global WHO strategy for environmental health based on the findings and recommendations of the WHO Commission on Health and Environment and on the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and taking into account the need to consider environmental health in the broad context of environment and development.

13. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR OVERCOMING MICRONUTRIENT MALNUTRITION (WHA45.33)

The Assembly, recalling its resolutions WHA39.31 and WHA43.2 relating to iodine deficiency, resolutions WHA22.29, WHA25.55, WHA28.54 and WHA37.18 relating to vitamin A deficiency and xerophthalmia, resolutions WHA38.27 and WHA40.27 relating to maternal anaemia, resolution WHA44.33 recognizing the goals for the 1990s endorsed by the World Summit for Children, and recognizing the human suffering and the important health and socioeconomic problems caused by micronutrient deficiencies, concerned about the large numbers of people at risk and aware of the success of strategies for overcoming micronutrient malnutrition and the need to build on the experience of the past

decade to accelerate and intensify specific activities and integrated approaches in regard to micronutrient malnutrition, urged Member States to strengthen activities with regard to micronutrient malnutrition and integrate them into their national development programmes and to establish focal points and coordination mechanisms to promote and integrate such activities.

14. INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD NUTRITION (PROGRESS AND EVALUATION REPORT; AND STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF MARKETING OF BREAST-MILK SUBSTITUTES) (WHA45.34)

The Assembly recalled its resolutions WHA33.32, WHA34.22, WHA35.26, WHA37.30, WHA39.28, WHA41.11 and WHA43.3 concerning infant and young child nutrition, appropriate feeding practices and related questions, and welcomed the leadership of the executive heads of WHO and UNICEF in organizing the "Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative" as a means of strengthening the contribution of health services to safe motherhood, child survival and primary health care in general. In order to continue this positive trend, the Assembly urged Member States to give full expression at the national level to the operational targets contained in the Innocenti Declaration and to encourage and support all public and private health facilities, providing maternity services so that they become baby friendly to take measures appropriate to national circumstances aimed at ending the donation or low-priced sale of supplies of breast-milk substitutes to health care facilities providing maternity services; and to use the common breastfeeding indicators developed by WHO in collaboration with UNICEF and other interested organizations and agencies, in evaluating the progress of their breastfeeding programmes.

15. GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF AIDS (WHA45.35 AND EB89.R19)

The Assembly, recalling its resolutions WHA40.26, WHA41.24, WHA42.33, WHA42.34 and WHA43.10 as well as United Nations General Assembly resolutions 46/203, acknowledged the leading role of WHO in the guidance and coordination of AIDS control, prevention, care, research activities and support to those who are ill and their families, and expressed appreciation to all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system for their active collaboration in support of the global AIDS strategy. While endorsing the updated global AIDS strategy, proposing the essential ways to meet the new challenges of the evolving pandemic, the Assembly urged Member States to intensify national AIDS prevention efforts, to adopt updated global AIDS strategy as a basis for control efforts; to ensure coordination or integration of activities for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and all other sexually transmitted diseases; to improve measures for the prevention of HIV infection due to blood and blood products; to mobilize national resources and ensure a

multisectoral response to the pandemic; to reinforce efforts to oppose discrimination against persons and specific groups known to be or suspected of being HIV infected; to overcome denial of the magnitude of the pandemic and complacency about the need to take urgent and intensive action against HIV/AIDS; and to stress the importance of educating health professionals, especially nurses and midwives, and provide counselling and support services to those who give care to AIDS patients.