



Ninety-ninth Session

EB99.R8

Agenda item 16

17 January 1997

Report of the Task Force on Health in Development

The Executive Board,

Having examined the report by the Task Force on Health in Development;¹

Increasingly concerned that a global health crisis exists in which there is a worsening of health status, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups;

Aware that WHO must change if it is to maintain its global leadership role and meet the health challenges of the twenty-first century,

RECOMMENDS to the Fiftieth World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Fiftieth World Health Assembly,

Noting that the WHO Constitution states that “the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition”;

Recalling resolution WHA45.24 on health and development, requesting the Director-General to establish the Task Force to undertake a comprehensive review and analysis of factors which could improve the health of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations;

Having considered the report by the Task Force on Health in Development;

Acknowledging that the development of the Tenth General Programme of Work will be affected by matters concerning vision and mandate raised in the report;

Recalling resolutions WHA48.14 and WHA48.16 concerning review of the Constitution of the World Health Organization and renewal of the health-for-all strategy;

Deeply concerned about the worsening health status for many of the world's most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups;

¹ Document EB99/40.

Recognizing that poverty, unemployment, economic adjustment, and the emergence and re-emergence of new health problems add to the health crisis;

Reaffirming that public health measures can be a powerful bridge to peace by helping to mitigate the negative effects of conflict and social and economic inequities;

Aware of the need for global health leadership to provide guidance in responding to the worsening health crisis in a rapidly changing world;

Convinced that WHO is in a unique position to lead and advocate for global health, and that in this role of global leader WHO will interact with a variety of partners in implementing global health initiatives and programmes;

Convinced also that WHO must continuously adapt its work in order to respond to the public health and development exigencies of the twenty-first century,

1. COMMENDS the Task Force on Health in Development for its commitment and creativity and for producing an excellent action-oriented report;

2. ENDORSES the components of the Task Force's vision for health leadership in the twenty-first century:

- (1) to promote a global agenda for health;
- (2) to continue to set high standards in health;
- (3) to monitor changes in health status;
- (4) to develop health promotive and disease preventive diplomacy;
- (5) to work with WHO's partners to ensure that health status is promoted and protected in economic policies and development strategies;
- (6) to act as the world's "health conscience";

3. URGES Member States to consider the Task Force's report in its planning of development strategies, in accordance with the conditions prevailing in each region and country;

4. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to take into account the recommendations of the Task Force in the preparatory discussions for the Tenth General Programme of Work and in the renewal of the health-for-all strategy;
- (2) to work with the Governing Bodies, Member governments and partners in health and development to use the recommendations in the Task Force's report to strengthen WHO's role as the leader in global health in the twenty-first century;
- (3) to establish a mechanism for monitoring the progress made in incorporating the Task Force's recommendations in the renewed health-for-all process and in the overall reform and restructuring efforts of WHO;

- (4) to report to the 101st session of the Executive Board on the above, including the progress made in integrating the recommendations of the Task Force into programme development in WHO.

Tenth meeting, 17 January 1997
EB99/SR/10

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