CONTROL OF ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS

The Forty-fourth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the Director-General’s report on the control of acute respiratory infections;

Concerned at the high morbidity and mortality caused by acute respiratory infections in children;

Aware of the recent findings in relation to the effectiveness and feasibility of the case management strategy;

1. NOTES with satisfaction the progress made in the development of the programme for the control of acute respiratory infections, which focuses on the prevention of mortality from pneumonia in children;

2. APPROVES the close integration of the health-service and research components of the programme, which has ensured that research activities concentrate on major questions relating to the control of acute respiratory infections and has facilitated the prompt application of research results in control programmes;

3. URGES Member States to initiate or intensify activities for the control of acute respiratory infections as an essential part of primary health care and as one of the high-priority programmes for reducing mortality in infancy and early childhood;

4. EXTENDS its appreciation to the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and other international organizations, including bilateral agencies and nongovernmental organizations, for their continued collaboration in and support to the programme;

5. URGES Member States, and organizations of the United Nations system and bilateral agencies, to provide further support to national programmes for the control of acute respiratory infections in children in developing countries, through financial and technical cooperation;

6. EMPHASIZES the need for continuous provision of adequate financial support to enable the programme for the control of acute respiratory infections to carry out its planned activities and achieve its targets and objectives;

7. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to increase support to Member States in developing and strengthening national control programmes through activities concerned with the planning, implementation and evaluation of the case management strategy and strategies for the prevention of morbidity;
(2) to intensify support to clinical, sociocultural, disease-prevention, and health systems research on acute respiratory infections, with a view to developing and applying appropriate methods of prevention, diagnosis and treatment of pneumonia in children, including essential antibiotics at an affordable cost, promoting their rational use and seeking to avoid the development of microbial resistance;

(3) to maintain close and effective collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and other agencies in promoting the programme’s policies and carrying out its activities;

(4) to attract further extrabudgetary resources to meet the requirements of the programme;

(5) to keep the Executive Board and the Health Assembly informed of the progress made in the implementation of the programme.

Eleventh plenary meeting, 13 May 1991
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