



World Health Organization
Organisation mondiale de la Santé

FORTY-EIGHTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

(Draft) A48/54
12 May 1995

Third report of Committee B

(Draft)

Committee B held its eighth and ninth meetings on 11 and 12 May 1995 under the chairmanship of Professor A. Wojtczak (Poland).

It was decided to recommend to the Forty-eighth World Health Assembly the adoption of the attached resolutions relating to the following agenda items:

18. Proposed programme budget for the financial period 1996-1997

18.2 General review

Two resolutions entitled:

- Consolidating budgetary reform
- Reorientation of allocations

19. Implementation of resolutions (progress reports by the Director-General)

One resolution entitled:

- Paris AIDS Summit

29. Personnel matters

29.1 Recruitment of international staff in WHO: biennial report

One resolution entitled:

- Recruitment of international staff in WHO: geographical representation

31. Health conditions of, and assistance to, the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine

One resolution

32. Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations

32.2 Establishment of the joint and cosponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS

One resolution entitled:

- Establishment of the joint and cosponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS ("UNAIDS")

32.6 Health assistance to specific countries

One resolution

Agenda item 18.2

Consolidating budgetary reform

The Forty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions WHA46.35 and WHA47.8, which set out a number of matters of concern to Member States relating to the budgetary process;

Reiterating the importance of achieving the highest standards of accountability and transparency in the programme budget of the Organization;

Reaffirming the fundamental importance of realistic programme targets and measurable outcomes;

Thanking the Director-General for the initial efforts made to respond to these resolutions in the preparation of the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997;

Welcoming the first steps in developing a strategic approach to the programme budget process and in preparing a clearer, simpler, and more "user-friendly" document than previous programme budget documents;

Recognizing that other provisions of resolutions WHA46.35 and WHA47.8 still need to be fulfilled;

Considering that the preparation of each programme budget should be a continuous process building on the achievements of preceding programme budgets;

Convinced of the need to take greater account of the relation between regular and extrabudgetary funds in budget preparation;

Noting the need for greater harmonization of budget policies and programme budgeting procedures in all areas and at all levels of the Organization,

1. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to involve Member States and the Executive Board at an early stage in translating the strategic budget into detailed, annual, operational plans of action, including indications of extrabudgetary resources;

(2) to enhance the process of strategic budgeting for future bienniums along the following lines:

(a) provide greater opportunity for Member States' involvement, in the appropriate forums, in the establishment of priorities at each stage and every level, for the development of the programme budget;

(b) ensure sufficient flexibility in the process to permit the continuous assessment of priorities and programmes and appropriate adjustments in implementations;

(c) at the strategic level, continue to clarify objectives, including health outcomes, for the programme budget;

- (d) strengthen the principle of accountability at the programme level, through the establishment of qualitative and quantitative performance targets for programme managers to be reached during the period of the programme budget, and report to the Member States on the results achieved during the biennium;
 - (e) present financial statements and schedules in a format that permits comparison of expenditure against the programme budget and the operational plans of action;
- (3) to present, in future programme budgets, data on actual expenditure for comparison with the most recently completed biennium, and data on forecasted final expenditure for the current biennium;
 - (4) to continue to identify areas of duplication, overlapping, and redundant procedures in budget planning, with a view to improving efficiency and productivity, in order that WHO resources may be used in the areas of highest priority;
 - (5) to present to the Executive Board at its ninety-seventh session, a progress report on the experiences thus far with the strategic programme budget approach, including evidence of consistency of programme budgeting procedures and policies in all areas and at all levels of WHO, and an analysis of the ways in which these experiences and any deficiencies in the new approach may be taken into account when preparing the 1998-1999 biennial programme budget; and to request the Executive Board to present to the Forty-ninth World Health Assembly its recommendations on this subject.

Agenda item 18.2

Reorientation of allocations

The Forty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Aware of the great inequities persisting between developed and developing countries where health status is concerned, and the lack of human, material and financial resources in the developing countries to cope with their urgent health problems and establish national health services;

Noting with deep concern that there has been no real growth in the WHO budget for the last ten years, and that the instability of financial markets is causing unforeseeable cost increases;

Recalling resolution WHA29.48, whereby the Director-General was requested to cut down "all avoidable and non-essential expenditure on establishment and administration", and the effect of that resolution in achieving an orientation of 60% of the regular budget towards technical cooperation,

REQUESTS the Executive Board and the Director-General:

- (1) to initiate, as part of the process of budgetary reform, a process of biennial budgetary transfers from global and interregional activities to priority health programmes at country level, in the context of priorities recommended by the Board, starting with a 2% transfer in the 1998-1999 programme budget, and to regularly review this need in every biennium in order to achieve maximum transfer of resources to priority health programmes at country level;
- (2) to ensure that the respective proposed programme budgets show from which programme areas the transfer has been effected;
- (3) to report to the Forty-ninth World Health Assembly on steps taken in implementing this resolution.

Agenda item 19

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Paris AIDS Summit

The Forty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Director-General on the global strategy for prevention and control of AIDS,¹ expressing the exemplary role of the World Health Organization, and on the implementation of the joint and cosponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS;²

Mindful that, among its objectives, the programme must not only obtain and facilitate a worldwide consensus on policies and programmes, but must also strengthen the capacity of the United Nations system to follow up trends and ensure that appropriate and effective policies and strategies are implemented at the national level;

Having in mind the seven initiatives contained in the declaration of the AIDS Summit adopted in Paris on 1 December 1994³ with regard to involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS; global collaboration for HIV/AIDS research; international collaboration for blood transfusion safety; care of affected persons; mobilization in favour of children, young people and orphans; reduction of the vulnerability of women; and respect for human rights and ethics related to HIV/AIDS;

Emphasizing that improved coordination of the activities conducted by governments, multilateral and intergovernmental organizations, and community-based organizations, including people living with HIV/AIDS, will make more effective control of the pandemic possible,

1. WELCOMES the declaration of the AIDS Summit adopted by the Heads of Government or representatives of the 42 States meeting in Paris on 1 December 1994;
2. INVITES governments which have not signed the declaration to do so;
3. INVITES the organizations cosponsoring the joint United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS to include in their programmes the provisions defined in the declaration adopted at the Paris Summit;
4. REQUESTS the Director-General, within the framework of the joint and cosponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS, and in close cooperation with its Director, to contribute to the implementation of the priority initiatives set out in the declaration of the Paris Summit.

¹ Document A48/14.

² Document A48/34.

³ Document EB95/1995/REC/1, Annex 7.

Agenda item 29.1

Recruitment of international staff in WHO: geographical representation

The Forty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Noting the report and proposals of the Director-General and the views of the Executive Board with regard to the recruitment of international staff in WHO;

Recalling earlier resolutions of the Health Assembly and the Board on the same subject, the last of which was WHA46.23;

Noting that recruitment of nationals from unrepresented and under-represented countries and countries below the mid-point of the desirable range has exceeded the target of 40% and reached 48%;

Reaffirming that the principles embodied in Articles 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 of the Staff Regulations remain the paramount consideration in staff recruitment,

1. DECIDES to set a target of 60% of all vacancies arising in professional and higher-graded posts subject to geographical distribution during the period ending September 1996 for the appointment of nationals of unrepresented and under-represented countries and those below the mid-point of the desirable range;
2. CALLS UPON the Director-General and the Regional Directors to pursue energetically their efforts to continue to improve geographical representation;
3. REQUESTS the Director-General to report on the recruitment of international staff in WHO to the Executive Board and the Health Assembly in 1998.

Agenda item 31

**Health conditions of, and assistance to, the
Arab population in the occupied Arab territories,
including Palestine**

The Forty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Mindful of the basic principle established in the WHO Constitution, which affirms that the health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security;

Recalling the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East at Madrid on 30 October 1991, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, and the subsequent bilateral negotiations;

Expressing the hope that the peace talks among the parties concerned in the Middle East will lead to a just and comprehensive peace in the area;

Noting the signing in Washington D.C. on 13 September 1993 of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the commencement of the implementation of the Declaration of Principles following the signing of the Cairo Accord on 4 May 1994, and the transfer of health services to the Palestinian Health Authority on 1 December 1994;

Emphasizing the need to accelerate the implementation of the Declaration of Principles and the Cairo Accord;

Recognizing the need for increased support and health assistance to the Arab populations in the occupied Arab territories, including the Palestinians as well as the Syrian Arab population;

Recognizing that the Palestinian people will have to make strenuous efforts to improve their health infrastructure, and expressing its satisfaction at the initiation of cooperation between the Israeli Ministry of Health and its Palestinian counterpart, emphasizing that health development is best enhanced under conditions of peace and stability;

Expressing its hope that the Palestinian patients will be able to benefit from health facilities available in the health institutions of Jerusalem;

Recognizing the need for support and health assistance to the Arab populations in the occupied territories, including the occupied Golan;

Having considered the report of the Director-General¹ on the subject,

1. EXPRESSES the hope that the peace talks will lead to the establishment of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East;

¹ Document A48/32.

2. **EXPRESSES** the hope that the Palestinian people, having assumed responsibility for their health services, will be able themselves to carry out health plans and projects in order to participate with the peoples of the world in the achievement of WHO's objective of health for all by the year 2000;
3. **AFFIRMS** the need to support the efforts of the Palestinian Authority in the field of health to enable it to develop its own health system which meets the needs of the Palestinian people, by administering their own affairs and supervising their own health services;
4. **URGES** Member States, intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations and regional organizations to provide speedy and generous assistance to help in the achievement of health development for the Palestinian people;
5. **THANKS** the Director-General for his efforts and requests him:
 - (1) to continue to provide the necessary technical assistance for supporting health programmes and projects for the Palestinian people in the transitional period;
 - (2) to take the necessary steps and make the contacts needed to obtain funding from various available sources and extrabudgetary sources to meet the urgent health needs of the Palestinian people during the transitional period;
 - (3) to continue his efforts to implement the special health assistance programme and adapt it to the health needs of the Palestinian people, taking into account the health plan of the Palestinian people;
 - (4) to activate the organizational unit at WHO headquarters concerned with the health of the Palestinian people, and continue to provide health assistance to improve the health conditions of the Palestinian people;
 - (5) to report on the implementation of this resolution to the Forty-ninth World Health Assembly;
6. **EXPRESSES** gratitude to all Member States, intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organizations and calls upon them to provide the assistance needed to meet the health needs of the Palestinian people.

Agenda item 32.2

**Establishment of the joint and cosponsored
United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS
("UNAIDS")**

The Forty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Stressing the increasingly grave implications of the HIV/AIDS epidemic for health and the provision of adequate and appropriate health services, as well as for many other economic and social sectors;

Recalling that resolution EB93.R5 recommends the development and establishment of a joint and cosponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS ("UNAIDS") administered by WHO, in keeping with the consensus option as presented in the report of the Director-General on this issue;

Further recalling that resolution EB95.R13 requests the Director-General to pursue efforts towards establishing the programme;

Having examined the report of the Director-General on progress to this end;

Welcoming the endorsement of the programme's establishment by the governing bodies of the other cosponsoring organizations;

Taking note of resolution 1994/24 adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its July 1994 session;

Considering the support given to the programme in the Declaration of the Paris AIDS Summit;

Taking note of the report of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations to the Economic and Social Council;

Welcoming the appointment of an Executive Director for the programme, with effect from 1 January 1995;

Aware of the urgent need to proceed with the establishment of the programme in order to ensure that it is fully operational by 1 January 1996;

Considering that the programme must play a central normative and coordinating role in the development, at national and global levels, of common strategies whose activities concerning HIV/AIDS will be supported by the cosponsoring organizations;

Recognizing that substantial capacity has been built up within WHO to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, primarily through its Global Programme on AIDS;

Reaffirming the importance of the role of the national authorities as principal coordinators of national response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic;

Stressing that an important function of the programme will be to strengthen national capacities to plan, coordinate, implement and monitor the overall response to HIV/AIDS;

Welcoming the progress made towards establishing the joint United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS,

1. ENDORSES the establishment of UNAIDS, to which WHO will provide the administrative framework as described in the report of the Director-General;¹
2. ENCOURAGES UNAIDS to promote the development of the basic elements of a common message for HIV/AIDS prevention, care and health education which considers the different social and cultural contexts of Member States;
3. URGES Member States elected to the Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) of UNAIDS to consider the importance of maintaining public health experience and expertise on HIV/AIDS/STD when selecting their representatives to PCB;
4. URGES Member States to pursue in the respective governing bodies of cosponsoring organizations the provision to the programme of financial support from their regular/core budget, as well as staff support in accordance with the requirements of the programme;
5. REQUESTS the Director-General:
 - (1) to facilitate implementation of the programme in accordance with resolutions EB93.R5 and EB95.R13, taking into account the report of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations to the Economic and Social Council;
 - (2) to provide administrative support to the Executive Director of the programme and his staff during the transition period and to arrange for WHO to meet the administrative needs of the programme once it is operational, in the light of the Organization's role as administering agency;
 - (3) to provide the programme with financial support from the regular budget of WHO and with staff support;
 - (4) to give the WHO Representatives the necessary instructions to ensure close collaboration at country level with the other cosponsoring organizations;
 - (5) to ensure continuation of the work of the Global Programme on AIDS during the period of transition until the joint programme is fully operational;
 - (6) to ensure that strategies are developed, in close collaboration with UNAIDS, for integrating HIV/AIDS/STD into the work of WHO;
 - (7) to report on progress made towards establishment of the programme to the Forty-ninth World Health Assembly in May 1996.

¹ Document A48/34.

Agenda item 32.6

**Collaboration within the United Nations system
and with other intergovernmental organizations:
Health assistance to specific countries**

The Forty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Recalling and confirming the previous resolutions of the Health Assembly on health assistance to specific countries, the most recent being resolution WHA47.28, which includes reference to earlier resolutions WHA44.37 (Health and medical assistance to Lebanon); WHA44.38 (Health assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Cyprus); WHA44.39 (Assistance to Lesotho and Swaziland); WHA44.40 (Reconstruction and development of the health sector in Namibia); and WHA44.43 (Health and medical assistance to Somalia); and also resolution WHA44.41 (Emergency relief to Bangladesh);

Noting the increasing number of countries and areas stricken by natural and man-made disasters and the subsequent numerous reports submitted for discussion during the Health Assembly;

Taking note of United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/182, "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations";

Recalling resolution WHA35.1 on method of work of the Health Assembly, which draws attention to the desirability of a full discussion at regional level of all matters dealing with specific countries before such items are referred to the Health Assembly, and the recent decision on this matter by the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean (resolution EM/RC39/R.11),

1. EXPRESSES its appreciation to the Director-General for his continued efforts to strengthen the Organization's capacity to respond promptly and efficiently to country-specific emergencies;
2. URGES the Director-General to continue to give high priority to countries mentioned in the above resolutions and to coordinate these and other WHO efforts in emergency preparedness and humanitarian assistance with the humanitarian affairs programmes of the United Nations system, including mobilization of extrabudgetary resources;
3. CALLS UPON the Director-General to report to the Forty-ninth World Health Assembly on the implementation of this resolution.

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