

EB57.R32 WHO's role in the development and coordination of biomedical research

The Executive Board,

Having considered the progress report on WHO's role in the development and coordination of biomedical research submitted by the Director-General in accordance with resolution WHA28.70;

Realizing that the encouragement and coordination of scientific research, and the accumulation and proper transfer of scientific knowledge, are fundamental to the success of WHO's long-term programmes;

Recognizing the importance of determining the best possible relationship between fundamental and applied research;

Noting that, in the draft Sixth General Programme of Work of WHO covering the period 1978-1983, to be submitted to the Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly, assistance in the development and coordination of biomedical research, identification of research priorities, strengthening of national health capabilities, and application of scientific knowledge and methods are singled out among the main fields of WHO activity; and

Noting with satisfaction the intensification of the work of the Advisory Committee on Medical Research and of medical research activities at regional level, including the establishment of regional advisory committees on medical research, and also the increasing extent to which the assistance of experts and national research establishments is being utilized in the implementation of WHO research programmes,

1. THANKS the Director-General for his report;
2. REQUESTS the Director-General to give consideration to measures to broaden the areas of expertise represented by the membership of the Advisory Committee on Medical Research so as to reflect the increasing importance of health services research within biomedical research; and

3. REQUESTS the Director-General to take into account, in his report to the Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly, the comments made by members of the Board and also to include information on progress made in reviewing the system of reference and research centres collaborating with WHO, with a view to evaluating the work they have done and to developing ways of strengthening their future role in the Organization's programme.