

## WHA29.46 Health aspects of human settlements

The Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly,

Having considered WHO's human health and environment programme and the mid-decade progress report of the Director-General on community water supply and wastewater disposal on which it has adopted resolutions;

Noting the statement presented to the Health Assembly by the Secretary-General of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, which will take place in Vancouver from 31 May to 11 June 1976;

Having also considered the report on the Technical Discussions on the health aspects of human settlements;

Considering that the World Health Organization, by virtue of its Constitution, is the specialized agency concerned with the safeguarding and promotion of health and environmental conditions in human settlements;

Aware of the unprecedented growth rate of population, of the surge of rural populations into urban areas, and continued lack of tangible improvements in rural areas, particularly in developing countries, which is exacerbating the health and environmental problems of human settlements;

1. EMPHASIZES the vital need to take into consideration health and environmental aspects in the planning and development of human settlements, using a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach;
2. RECOMMENDS that governments:
  - (1) ensure that health authorities at central and local levels have scientific and technical competence and sufficient breadth of responsibility in relation to environmental health and preventive medicine to influence the hygienic features of human settlements which are fundamentally important to health, including water supply, hygienic wastes disposal, adequate nutrition and decent shelter;
  - (2) promote full cooperation between health and other central and local government departments as well as the voluntary agencies and the community in order that health considerations should be taken into account *ab initio* in the planning and development of human settlements; an important aspect of this is the education of decision-makers in the planning, architectural, economic and social fields as to the importance of the potential health contributions to life in human settlements;
  - (3) undertake the study of health aspirations and needs of populations in human settlements and those conditions of the environment predisposing to ill health; determine the respective priorities of these needs; and, as far as is practicable, allocate resources for their resolution and for the continuing monitoring of the situation;

