

## **WHA49.14      Revised drug strategy**

The Forty-ninth World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions WHA39.27, WHA41.16, WHA43.20, WHA45.27, WHA47.12, WHA47.13, WHA47.16 and WHA47.17;

Having considered the report of the Director-General on the revised drug strategy;<sup>1</sup>

Noting the activities of WHO to further the implementation of the revised drug strategy and, in particular, the high priority given to direct country support and collaboration in drug policy formulation and implementation, in provision and dissemination of independent drug information, in improved training of health personnel, in promotion of collaborative research, and in strengthening of drug regulatory mechanisms;

Recognizing with satisfaction the increasing awareness of all parties concerned of their responsibilities in the implementation of the revised drug strategy;

Aware that WHO's strong leadership in promoting the essential drugs concept and its efforts to coordinate the growing number of those concerned in the pharmaceutical sector have been vital in promoting rational drug use;

Concerned that access to drugs is still inequitable, that promotion of commercially produced drugs still outweighs independent, comparative, scientifically validated and up-to-date information on drugs, and that problems persist in ensuring the quality of medicines both on the open market and for donation as international aid;

Aware that effective drug regulation takes time;

Aware also that economic conditions, including the changing share of the public and private sectors in health care, demand a wise use of available resources to meet drug needs for primary health care,

### **1. URGES Member States:**

- (1) to reaffirm their commitment to the development and implementation of national drug policies to ensure equitable access to essential drugs;
- (2) to increase efforts to promote the rational use of drugs, through the intensification of training and education of health workers and education of the public;
- (3) to enhance drug regulatory mechanisms for the monitoring and control of efficacy, quality and safety;
- (4) to establish and strengthen, as appropriate, programmes for the monitoring of safety and efficacy of marketed drugs;
- (5) to control unethical marketing of drugs;

---

<sup>1</sup> Document A49/4, part III.

(6) to eliminate inappropriate donation of drugs, as recommended by the interagency Guidelines for Drug Donations issued by WHO in May 1996;<sup>2</sup>

(7) to involve health workers, consumers, academic institutions or individuals, industry, and others concerned in open intersectoral negotiation to develop, implement and monitor these activities in order to improve access to and use of drugs;

(8) to evaluate progress regularly, making use of indicators developed by WHO or other suitable mechanisms;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to support Member States in their efforts to coordinate the various elements of a national drug policy, improve access to essential drugs, and ensure the rational use of drugs;

(2) to encourage Member States, as far as possible, to establish a system for the coordination and harmonization of their national strategies;

(3) to develop a clear strategy for the review and assessment of the effectiveness of the WHO Ethical Criteria on Medicinal Drug Promotion;

(4) to promote vigorously the use of the WHO Certification Scheme on the Quality of Pharmaceutical Products Moving in International Commerce;

(5) to disseminate the interagency Guidelines for Drug Donations issued by WHO in May 1996 and to encourage, in collaboration with all interested parties, their use and review after one year;

(6) to strengthen market intelligence, review in collaboration with interested parties information on prices and sources of information on prices of essential drugs and raw materials of good quality, which meet requirements of internationally recognized pharmacopoeias or equivalent regulatory standards, and provide this information to Member States;

(7) to continue the development, harmonization and promotion of standards to enhance drug regulatory and quality control mechanisms;

(8) to continue the development and dissemination of information on pharmaceutical products thereby assuring the safe, effective and rational use of drugs;

(9) to encourage the promotion of research on drugs for rare and tropical diseases, and their development;

(10) to report on the impact of the work of the World Trade Organization (WTO) with respect to national drug policies and essential drugs and make recommendations for collaboration between WTO and WHO, as appropriate;

---

<sup>2</sup> Document WHO/DAP/96.2.

(11) to report to the Fifty-first World Health Assembly on progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of WHO's revised drug strategy, with recommendations for action.

*Hbk Res., Vol. III (3rd ed.), 1.15.2*

(Sixth plenary meeting, 25 May 1996 -  
Committee A, second report)