The Thirty-seventh World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions WHA24.56 and WHA31.32;

Recognizing the progress achieved in the development of the WHO Action Programme on Essential Drugs, the Organization's programme on drug information and other WHO activities in this field;

Concerned by the high proportion of health budgets spent on drugs in many countries, particularly in developing countries, thereby limiting the remaining funds available for the provision of adequate health care to the whole population through primary health care;

Realizing the problems of inappropriate and excessive prescription and use of drugs;

Aware of the need for further studies, inter alia, in clinical pharmacology, to facilitate the improvement of prescription practices, with regard to effects, adverse reactions and the possible interaction of drugs;

Realizing the need for better knowledge of actual drug consumption and prescription practices;

Aware of the importance of training of health personnel to ensure the appropriate use and prescription of drugs;

Recognizing the importance of unbiased and complete information about drugs to health authorities, physicians, pharmacy staff, other health workers and the general public;

Aware of the need for better information on drug marketing procedures and practices;

Recognizing the achievement of local drug and therapeutic committees established in several Member States;

Noting with satisfaction the growing interest shown by governments, registration authorities, the pharmaceutical industry, patients' and consumers' organizations and health workers in information about, and the marketing of, drugs;

Convinced of the need for cooperation between all interested parties in order to achieve a more rational use of drugs;

URGES Member States:

(1) to support the development and dissemination of unbiased and complete drug information;

(2) to collaborate in the exchange of information on the use and marketing of drugs through bilateral or multilateral programmes and WHO;

(3) to strengthen the national capabilities of developing countries in the selection and proper use of drugs to meet their real needs and in local production and quality control, wherever feasible, of drugs;

(4) to intensify action to introduce and implement comprehensive and rational drug policies;
2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to continue to develop activities at national, regional and global levels aiming at the improvement of use of drugs and of prescription practices and the provision of unbiased and complete information about drugs to the health profession and the public;

(2) (a) to foster the exchange of information among Member States on drugs including registration and marketing practices;

(b) to review the machinery within WHO concerning the dissemination of unbiased information relevant to the appropriate use of essential and other drugs; and to introduce appropriate improvements therein;

(3) to arrange, in 1985, a meeting of experts of the concerned parties, including governments, pharmaceutical industries, patients' and consumers' organizations to discuss the means and methods to ensure rational use of drugs, in particular through improved knowledge and flow of information and to discuss the role of marketing practices in this respect, especially in developing countries;

(4) to submit a report on the results of the meeting of experts and the implementation of this resolution to the Thirty-ninth World Health Assembly.

Fourteenth plenary meeting, 17 May 1984
A37/VR/14