

109th Session EB109.R3

Agenda item 3.1 16 January 2002

## WHO's contribution to achievement of the development goals of the United Nations Millenium Declaration

The Executive Board,

RECOMMENDS to the Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly,

Recalling the commitments made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2000<sup>1</sup> and the United Nations Secretary-General's road map towards its implementation;<sup>2</sup>

Recalling in particular the goals set out in the Millennium Declaration, by the year 2015, to have reduced maternal mortality by three-quarters, and under-five mortality by two-thirds, of their 1990 levels;

Recognizing that increased access to good-quality primary health care information and services, including reproductive health, is critical for attainment of several development goals of the Millenium Declaration;

Recalling and recognizing the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as their recommendations and five-year follow-ups;

Mindful of WHO's function, as set out in its Constitution, to promote the health and welfare of women and children;

Recognizing the equal right of men and women to the highest attainable standard of health and, in that regard, the importance of access to good-quality reproductive-health care, including family planning services that are effective, affordable and acceptable;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> United Nations General Assembly Resolution 55/2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> General Assembly document A/56/326.

Recognizing also the importance of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a framework for addressing child and adolescent health and development;

Recognizing that maternal, child and adolescent health and development have a major impact on socioeconomic development, and that achievement of the global targets for the coming decades will require renewed political commitment and action;

Concerned that, because of poverty and lack of access to basic health and social services, close to 11 million children under five years of age, nearly four million of them within the first month of life, die every year of preventable diseases and malnutrition, and that complications related to pregnancy and childbirth kill more than half a million women and adolescent girls every year, and injure and disable many more;

Concerned also by global inequities which lead to women dying during pregnancy and childbirth from conditions that are readily preventable and treatable, such as severe bleeding, infections, obstructed labour, hypertensive disorders, as well as from unsafe abortions;

Convinced that concerted action to make pregnancies and childbirth safer will have a beneficial impact on the survival of women and neonates, and will contribute to the health and development of children and adolescents and to the well-being of families;

Recognizing, as concluded by the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health, that improvements in maternal and neonatal health and survival are vital contributions to poverty reduction;

Reaffirming resolution WHA48.10 on reproductive health: WHO's role in the global strategy;

## 1. URGES Member States:

- (1) to strengthen and scale up efforts to achieve the development goals of the Millenium Declaration and other internationally agreed goals and targets;
- (2) to strengthen and expand efforts to meet, in particular, international development goals and targets related to reduction of maternal and child mortality and malnutrition and to improve access to primary health care services, including reproductive-health, with special attention to the needs of the poor and other underserved populations;
- (3) to continue to advocate as public health priorities, for safe pregnancy and childbirth and neonate, child and adolescent health and development;
- (4) to include in efforts to develop health systems, plans of action for making pregnancy safer, based on cost-effective interventions for good-quality maternal and neonatal care;
- (5) to ensure that primary health care facilities strive for full coverage of their neonate, child and adolescent populations with interventions known to be effective, including those that help families and communities care for their children and young people;

## 2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to report to the Executive Board at its 111th session and to the Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly on measures taken by WHO to contribute to the attainment of the development goals of the Millenium Declaration;
- (2) to report to the Executive Board at its 111th session and to the Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly on WHO's strategy for child and adolescent health and development, together with WHO's planned follow-up to the United Nations General Assembly special session on children;
- (3) to develop a strategy for accelerating progress towards attainment of international development goals and targets related to reproductive health, and to submit a progress report to the Executive Board at its 111th session and to the Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly;
- (4) to promote reporting on progress towards internationally agreed goals and targets in the area of reproductive health as part of WHO's contribution to the Secretary-General's report to the United Nations General Assembly on progress towards attainment of the development goals of the Millenium Declaration.

Sixth meeting, 16 January 2002 EB109/SR/6

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