

International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

The Fifty-third World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions WHA47.27, WHA48.24, WHA49.26, WHA50.31 and WHA51.24 on WHO's contribution to achievement of the objectives of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1994-2003);

Further recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 50/157, which adopted the programme of activities for the International Decade, in which it is recommended that "specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other international and national agencies, as well as communities and private enterprises, should devote special attention to development activities of benefit to indigenous communities"; that focal points for matters concerning indigenous people should be established in all appropriate organizations of the United Nations system; and that the governing bodies of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system should adopt programmes of action for the Decade in their own field of competence, "in close cooperation with indigenous people";

Commending the progress made in the Region of the Americas on the Initiative on the Health of Indigenous People of the Americas;

Taking note of the conclusions and recommendations of the "International Consultation on the Health of Indigenous Peoples" (Geneva, 23 to 26 November 1999),

1. **URGES** Member States:

- (1) to make adequate provisions for indigenous health needs in their national health systems;
- (2) to recognize and protect the right of indigenous people to enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health within overall national development policies;
- (3) to respect, preserve and maintain traditional healing practices and remedies, and to seek to ensure that indigenous people retain this traditional knowledge and its benefits;

2. **REQUESTS** WHO's regional committees to consider the adoption of regional action plans on indigenous health that take into account the conclusions and recommendations of the "International Consultation on the Health of Indigenous Peoples";

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to ensure that all WHO activities relevant to indigenous people are undertaken in close partnership with them;
- (2) to collaborate with partners in health and development for the protection and promotion of the right of the world's indigenous people to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health;
- (3) to complete, in close consultation with national governments and organizations of indigenous people, development of a global plan of action to improve the health of indigenous people, with particular emphasis on the needs of those in developing countries, as WHO's contribution to the Decade and beyond.

Eighth plenary meeting, 20 May 2000
A53/VR/8

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