



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

FIFTY-NINTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
Provisional agenda item 11.10

A59/15
24 April 2006

International trade and health

Report by the Secretariat

1. The expansion of international trade and the growing importance of multi- and bilateral trade agreements present a wide range of opportunities and challenges for public health. WHO works with FAO, UNCTAD, WTO, the World Bank, and other organizations to develop the knowledge base, and to provide technical support, tools and training, and advice to Member States in aligning their trade and health policies.
2. At its 116th session, the Executive Board examined a report on international trade and health which reviewed developments and described WHO's work in trade and health.¹ It then considered a draft resolution proposed by a number of countries, which addressed the need to promote a constructive dialogue at national level and to base policies on sound evidence, so that countries could maximize the positive effects of trade liberalization and minimize its negative impact.²
3. Amendments to this resolution were proposed and, at its 117th session, the Board took up the draft resolution and the proposed amendments, and adopted resolution EB117.R5.³

ACTION BY THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

4. The Health Assembly is invited to consider the draft resolution contained in resolution EB117.R5.

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¹ Document EB116/4.

² See document EB116/2005/REC/1, summary record of the second and third meetings.

³ See document EB117/2006/REC/2, summary record of the sixth meeting.