



**105th Session**

**EB105.R12**

**Supplementary agenda item**

**27 January 2000**

## **Prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases**

The Executive Board,

Noting the Director-General's report on the global strategy for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases prepared in response to the magnitude and impact of noncommunicable diseases, especially in low- and middle-income countries and in other disadvantaged communities;

Encouraged by the prospects offered by partnerships, and by adapted preventive and treatment strategies that will reduce premature mortality, morbidity and disability,

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

The Fifty-third World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolution WHA51.18 on noncommunicable disease prevention and control requesting the Director-General to formulate a global strategy for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and to submit the proposed global strategy and a plan for implementation to the Executive Board and Health Assembly;

Recognizing the enormous human suffering caused by noncommunicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases, and the threat they pose to the economies of many Member States, leading to increasing health inequalities between countries and populations;

Noting that the conditions in which people live and their lifestyles influence their health and quality of life, and that the most prominent noncommunicable diseases are linked to common risk factors, namely, tobacco use, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity, and being aware that these risk factors have economic, social, gender, political, behavioural and environmental determinants;

Reaffirming that the global strategy for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases and the ensuing implementation plan are directed at reducing premature mortality and improving quality of life;

Recognizing the leadership role that WHO should play in promoting global action against noncommunicable diseases and its contribution to global health based on its advantages compared to other organizations,

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to establish programmes, at national or any other appropriate level, in the framework of the global strategy for the prevention and control of major noncommunicable diseases, and specifically:

(a) to develop a mechanism to provide evidence-based information for policy-making, advocacy and evaluation of health care;

(b) to assess and monitor mortality and morbidity attributable to noncommunicable disease, and the level of exposure to risk factors and their determinants in the population;

(c) to continue pursuit of intersectoral and crosscutting health goals required for prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases by according noncommunicable diseases priority on the public health agenda;

(d) to emphasize the key role of governmental functions, including regulatory functions, when combating noncommunicable diseases including development of nutrition policy, control of tobacco products and policies to encourage physical activity;

(e) to promote community-based initiatives for prevention of noncommunicable diseases, based on a comprehensive risk-factor approach;

(2) to ensure that health care systems are responsive to chronic noncommunicable diseases and that their management is based on cost-effective health care interventions and equitable access;

(3) to share their national experiences and to build the capacity at regional, national and community levels for the development, implementation and evaluation of programmes for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to continue giving priority to the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, with special emphasis on developing countries and other deprived populations;

(2) to ensure that the leadership provided by WHO in combating noncommunicable diseases and their risk factors is based on the best available evidence, and thus to facilitate, with international partners, capacity building and establishment of a global network of information systems;

(3) to provide technical support and appropriate guidance to Member States in assessing their needs, adapting their health care systems, and in addressing gender issues related to the growing epidemic of noncommunicable diseases;

(4) to strengthen existing partnerships and develop new ones, notably with specialized national and international nongovernmental organizations with a view to sharing responsibilities for implementation of the global strategy based on each partner's expertise;

(5) to coordinate, in collaboration with the international community, global partnerships and alliances for resource mobilization, advocacy, capacity-building and collaborative research;

(6) to promote the adoption of international intersectoral policies, regulations and other appropriate measures that minimize the effect of the major risk factors of noncommunicable diseases;

(7) to promote and initiate collaborative research on noncommunicable diseases, and to strengthen the role of WHO collaborating centres in supporting implementation of the global prevention and control strategy.

Seventh meeting, 27 January 2000  
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