



105th Session

EB105.R17

Agenda item 3.3

28 January 2000

HIV/AIDS: confronting the epidemic

The Executive Board,

Noting the report by the Director-General on HIV/AIDS,¹

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

The Fifty-third World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report by the Director-General on HIV/AIDS;

Noting with deep concern that of the nearly 34 million people worldwide currently living with HIV/AIDS, 95% are in developing countries; and that in African countries the development gains of the past 50 years, including the increase in child survival and in life expectancy, are being reversed by the HIV/AIDS epidemic;

Further noting that in sub-Saharan Africa, where over 22 million people are infected, HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death and that more women are now infected than men; and that HIV infection is increasing rapidly in Asia, particularly in south Asia, where 6.5 million people are infected;

Recalling resolution WHA52.19 which *inter alia* requests the Director-General:

to cooperate with Member States, at their request, and with international organizations in monitoring and analysing the pharmaceutical and public health implications of relevant international agreements, including trade agreements, so that Member States can effectively assess and subsequently develop pharmaceutical and health policies and regulatory measures that address their concerns and priorities, and are able to maximize the positive and mitigate the negative impact of those agreements;

¹ Document EB105/12 and Corr.1.

Recognizing that poverty and inequality between men and women are driving the epidemic; and that denial, discrimination and stigma continue to be major obstacles to an effective response to the epidemic;

Underlining the need to advocate respect of human rights in the implementation of all measures to respond to the epidemic;

Acknowledging that political commitment and resources devoted to combating the epidemic both at national and international levels are not commensurate with the magnitude of the problem;

Recalling ECOSOC resolution 1999/36 on Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), which stresses, *inter alia*, governments' responsibility to intensify all efforts in combating AIDS through multisectoral action;

Recalling the recent session of the United Nations Security Council devoted to the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa, in which the Security Council recognized that HIV/AIDS is a unique modern-day plague that threatens the political, economic and social stability of sub-Saharan Africa and Asia,

1. URGES Member States:

- (1) to match their political commitment to the magnitude of the problem by allocating an appropriate national budget for HIV/AIDS prevention and control;
- (2) to provide increased support for UNAIDS, including its efforts in the context of the International Partnership Against AIDS in Africa;
- (3) to strengthen public education on HIV/AIDS and to pay particular attention to national strategic plans directed at reducing the vulnerability of women, children and adolescents;
- (4) to apply experiences and lessons learned and the growing body of scientific knowledge regarding proven effective interventions for prevention and care in order to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS and to increase the quality and length of life of those infected;
- (5) to ensure that blood transfusion services do not constitute an HIV risk factor by ensuring that all individuals have access to blood and blood products that are as safe as possible, available at reasonable cost, adequate to meet their needs, transfused only when necessary, and provided as part of a sustainable blood programme within the existing health care system;
- (6) to build and strengthen partnerships between health providers and the community, including nongovernmental organizations, in order to direct community resources towards proven effective interventions;
- (7) to implement key strategies for HIV/AIDS prevention, in particular management of sexually transmitted infections and promotion of safer sex, including by ensuring availability of male and female condoms;

(8) to strengthen health systems that ensure adequate and skilled human resources, supply systems and financing schemes in order to address the needs for HIV/AIDS care and prevention;

(9) to take steps to reduce use of illicit substances and to protect intravenous drug users and their sexual partners against HIV infection;

(10) to increase access to, and quality of, care in order to improve quality of life, assure the dignity of the individual, and meet the medical and psychosocial needs of people living with HIV/AIDS, including treatment and prevention of HIV-related illnesses and provision of a continuum of care, with efficient referral mechanisms between home, clinic, hospital and institution;

(11) to increase access to prophylaxis for, and treatment of, HIV and related diseases by ensuring a reliable distribution and delivery system, and the provision and affordability of drugs, particularly through implementation of a strong generic drug policy, bulk purchasing, negotiation with pharmaceutical companies, and adequate financing;

(12) to define and affirm their role and, where appropriate, engage in partnerships and solidarity initiatives to make prophylactic and therapeutic drugs affordable and safely and effectively used, whether intended for prevention of mother-to-child transmission, prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections, or access to antiretroviral treatment for patients;

(13) to establish or to expand voluntary counselling and confidential HIV-testing services in order to encourage health-seeking behaviour and to act as an entry point for prevention and care;

(14) to continue research on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and to integrate interventions for it into primary health care, including reproductive health services, as part of comprehensive care for HIV-infected pregnant women and postnatal follow-up for them and for their families;

(15) to establish and strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems, including epidemiological and behavioural surveillance and assessment of the response of health systems to the epidemics of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to continue strengthening the involvement of WHO, as cosponsor of UNAIDS, in the United Nations system-wide response to HIV/AIDS, including at country level;

(2) to develop a global health-sector strategy for responding to the epidemics of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections as part of the United Nations system's strategic plan for HIV/AIDS for 2001-2005, and to report on progress in development of the strategy to the Executive Board at its 107th session;

(3) to give priority in WHO's regular budget to the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, and to engage the Organization as an active partner in the implementation of a transparent and joint resource mobilization strategy in support of the unified budget and work plan of the UNAIDS Secretariat and its cosponsors;

- (4) to further mobilize funds in support of national HIV/AIDS prevention and control programmes;
- (5) to involve WHO fully in the International Partnership Against HIV/AIDS in Africa, particularly at country level, within the context of national strategic plans;
- (6) to cooperate with Member States in organizing nationally coordinated blood-transfusion services;
- (7) to collaborate with Member States in strengthening the capacity of health systems to respond to the epidemics through integrated prevention of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections and care for infected people, and to promote health systems research to frame policy on health systems' response to HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections;
- (8) to advocate respect of human rights in the implementation of all measures responding to the epidemics;
- (9) to pursue dialogue with the pharmaceutical industry with a view to making HIV/AIDS-related drugs increasingly accessible to the population of Member States through drug development, cost reduction, and strengthening of reliable distribution systems;
- (10) to reinforce, promote, and explore partnerships in order to make HIV/AIDS-related drugs accessible through affordable prices, adequate financing and effective health care systems, and to ensure that drugs are safely and effectively used;
- (11) to cooperate with governments, at their request, and other international organizations on possible options under relevant international agreements, including trade agreements, to improve access to HIV/AIDS-related drugs;
- (12) to promote the research on, and development of, new and effective diagnostic tools and antimicrobial drugs for sexually transmitted infections;
- (13) to intensify efforts to prevent HIV and sexually transmitted infections in women, including promotion of research on and development of microbicides and affordable female condoms to provide women and girls with female-initiated protection methods;
- (14) to continue, in the context of efforts under way with UNICEF, UNFPA and the UNAIDS Secretariat, to provide technical support to Member States for implementation of strategies and programmes to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV;
- (15) to advocate the expansion of current vaccine development appropriate for subtypes of HIV found in developing and developed countries;
- (16) to provide support to Member States for collecting and analysing information on the epidemics of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, developing methodologies for behavioural surveillance, and producing periodic updates;

(17) to provide increased support to Member States for the prevention and control of HIV transmission in intravenous drug users in order to avoid an explosive spread of HIV/AIDS in that vulnerable population.

Ninth meeting, 28 January 2000
EB105/SR/9

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