



107th Session

EB107.R12

Agenda item 3.3

22 January 2001

## Schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminth infections

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report on control of schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminth infections,<sup>1</sup>

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

The Fifty-fourth World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions EB5.R5, WHA3.26, EB55.R22, WHA28.53 and WHA29.58 on schistosomiasis;

Noting the report on the control of schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminth infections;<sup>1</sup>

Recognizing that where control measures have been implemented in a sustainable way, as demonstrated in several countries, mortality, morbidity and transmission have decreased dramatically, leading to elimination in a number of countries;

Expressing concern that 2000 million people are infected by schistosomes and soil-transmitted helminths worldwide, 300 million of whom have associated severe morbidity, and that schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminth infections are invariably more prevalent in the poorest sections of the populations residing in the least-developed countries;

Further recognizing that repeated chemotherapy with safe, single-dose, affordable drugs at regular intervals ensures that levels of infection are kept below those associated with morbidity, and improves health and development, especially of children,

1. ENDORSES as the best means of reducing mortality and morbidity and improving health and development in infected communities, the regular treatment of high-risk groups, particularly school-age children, and ensured access to single-dose drugs against schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminths in primary health care services;

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB107/31.

2. URGES Member States:

(1) to sustain successful control activities in low-transmission areas in order to eliminate schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminth infections as a public health problem, and to give high priority to implementing or intensifying control of schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminth infections in areas of high transmission;

(2) to ensure access to essential drugs against schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminths in all health services in endemic areas for the treatment of children, women and other groups at risk of morbidity, with the goal of attaining a minimum target of regular administration of chemotherapy to at least 75% of all school-age children at risk of morbidity by 2010;

(3) to promote access to safe water and sanitation through intersectoral collaboration;

(4) to mobilize resources in order to sustain activities for control of schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminth infections;

3. ENCOURAGES organizations of the United Nations system, bilateral agencies, and nongovernmental organizations to intensify support for control of helminth infections, and to take advantage of the synergy that can be created with existing initiatives for the prevention, control and elimination of other communicable diseases;

4. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to combat schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminth infections by advocating new partnerships with organizations of the United Nations system, bilateral agencies, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector, and by continuing to provide international direction and coordination;

(2) to continue to seek the resources required to support advocacy, coordination and research activities;

(3) to keep the Executive Board and Health Assembly informed of the progress made in controlling or eliminating schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminth infections in high- and low-transmission countries, respectively.

Eleventh meeting, 22 January 2001  
EB107/SR/11

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