



111th Session

EB111.R13

Agenda item 5.12

24 January 2003

Revision of the International Health Regulations

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report on the revision of the International Health Regulations,¹

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

The Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions WHA48.7, WHA48.13, WHA54.14, and WHA55.16, which respond to the need to ensure global health security at a time when the threat of infectious diseases is resurging;

Taking into account also the existence of new risks and threats to health arising from the potential deliberate use of agents for terrorism purposes;

Affirming the additional threat posed by the substantial growth in international travel and trade, which provide greater opportunities for infectious diseases to evolve and spread;

Underscoring the continued importance of the International Health Regulations as an instrument for ensuring the maximum possible protection against the international spread of disease with minimum interference in international traffic;

Acknowledging the close links between the Regulations and WHO's outbreak alert and response activities, which have identified the principal challenges to be met in revising the Regulations,

1. EXPRESSES its satisfaction with the procedures and activities planned for finalizing the draft revised Regulations for adoption by the Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly in 2005;

¹ Document EB111/34.

2. DECIDES:

(1) in accordance with Rule 42 of its Rules of Procedure, to establish an intergovernmental working group open to all Member States to review and recommend a draft revision of the International Health Regulations for consideration by the Health Assembly under Article 21 of the WHO Constitution;

(2) that regional economic integration organizations constituted by sovereign States, Members of WHO, to which their Member States have transferred competence over matters governed by this resolution, including the competence to enter into international legally binding regulations, may participate, in accordance with Rule 55 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly, in the work of the intergovernmental working group referred to under paragraph (1);

3. URGES Member States to give high priority to the work on the revision of the International Health Regulations and to provide resources and cooperation necessary to facilitate the progress of such work;

4. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to complete the technical work required to facilitate reaching agreement on the revised International Health Regulations;

(2) to fully utilize technical consultations and electronic communications already in place to bring a text that has as much consensus as possible to the intergovernmental working group;

(3) to keep Member States informed about the technical work on the revision of the Regulations through the regional committees and other mechanisms;

(4) to convene the intergovernmental working group on revision of the International Health Regulations at the appropriate time and on the agreement of the 113th session of the Executive Board in January 2004, having regard to the progress achieved on the technical work and the other commitments of the Organization;

(5) to facilitate the participation of the least developed countries in the work of any intergovernmental working group and in intergovernmental technical consultations;

(6) to invite, as observers at the sessions of the intergovernmental working group on the revision of the International Health Regulations in accordance with Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly, representatives of non-Member States, of liberation movements referred to in resolution WHA27.37, of organizations of the United Nations system, of intergovernmental organizations with which WHO has established effective relations, and of nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO, who will attend the sessions of that body in accordance with the relevant Rules of Procedure and resolutions of the Health Assembly.

Ninth meeting, 24 January 2003
EB111/SR/9

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