

## Surveillance and control of *Mycobacterium ulcerans* disease (Buruli ulcer)

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report on surveillance and control of *Mycobacterium ulcerans* disease (Buruli ulcer)<sup>1</sup> and recognizing the leadership of WHO in health matters;

Noting that the first International Conference on Buruli Ulcer Control and Research (Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, 1998) marked the beginning of global resolve to tackle this hitherto neglected disease, and that this momentum needs to be maintained,

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

The Fifty-seventh World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on surveillance and control of *Mycobacterium ulcerans* disease (Buruli ulcer);

Deeply concerned about the spread of Buruli ulcer, especially among children, and its health and socioeconomic impact in poor rural communities;

Aware that early detection and treatment minimize the adverse consequences of the disease;

Noting with satisfaction the progress made by the Global Buruli Ulcer Initiative since its inception in 1998, in coordinating control, research and activities among partners;

Concerned that several factors, including late detection of cases and lack of effective tools for diagnosis, treatment, and prevention, impede further progress;

Mindful that achievement of two of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, namely, to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and to achieve universal primary education, may be hampered by the negative impact of neglected diseases of the poor, including Buruli ulcer,

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB113/40.

1. URGES Member States in which Buruli ulcer is or threatens to become endemic:
  - (1) to assess the burden of Buruli ulcer and, where necessary, establish a control programme;
  - (2) to accelerate efforts to detect and treat cases at an early stage;
  - (3) where feasible, to build up effective collaboration with other relevant disease-control activities;
  - (4) within the context of health-system development to establish and sustain partnerships at country level for control of Buruli ulcer;
  - (5) to ensure that sufficient national resources are available to meet control needs, including access to treatment and rehabilitation services;
2. ENCOURAGES all Member States:
  - (1) to participate in the Global Buruli Ulcer Initiative;
  - (2) to intensify research to develop tools to diagnose, treat and prevent the disease;
  - (3) to intensify community participation in the recognition of disease symptoms;
3. CALLS UPON the international community, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, donors, nongovernmental organizations, foundations and research institutions:
  - (1) to cooperate directly with countries in which the disease is endemic in order to strengthen control and research activities;
  - (2) to develop partnerships and to foster collaboration with organizations and programmes involved in health-system development in order to ensure that effective interventions can reach all those in need;
  - (3) to provide support to the Global Buruli Ulcer Initiative;
4. REQUESTS the Director-General:
  - (1) to continue to provide technical support to the Global Buruli Ulcer Initiative, particularly to advance understanding of the disease burden and to improve early access to diagnosis and treatment by general strengthening of health infrastructures;
  - (2) to foster technical cooperation among countries as a means of strengthening surveillance, control, and rehabilitation services;
  - (3) to promote research on better diagnostic, treatment and preventive tools.

Third meeting, 20 January 2004  
EB113/SR/3

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