



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

FIFTY-THIRD WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

(Draft) A53/40
19 May 2000

Fourth report of Committee B

(Draft)

Committee B held its fifth meeting on 19 May 2000 under the chairmanship of Dr K. Karam (Lebanon).

It was decided to recommend to the Fifty-third World Health Assembly the adoption of the attached two resolutions relating to the following agenda items:

12. Technical and health matters

12.7 Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization

One resolution

17. Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations

One resolution entitled:

- Aligning the participation of Palestine in the World Health Organization with its participation in the United Nations

Agenda item 12.7

Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization¹

The Fifty-third World Health Assembly,

Noting with deep concern that about 6.8 million children under five years of age die each year from infectious and parasitic diseases, and that some two million children still die each year from diseases that can be prevented by currently available vaccines;

Noting that existing immunization programmes currently save about three million lives per year worldwide and prevent nearly 750 000 cases of blindness, paralysis and mental disability annually;

Recognizing that in some countries immunization rates are stagnating and even declining, and that great disparity exists between industrialized and developing countries in the availability of vaccines;

Recognizing that many developing countries cannot afford to pay all the costs associated with universal childhood immunization and the establishment of safe and efficient delivery systems to cover their child populations;

Acknowledging that immunization is one of the most cost-effective health interventions and that it contributes to reducing poverty,

1. ENDORSES the objectives of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) – a global network comprising governments, bilateral agencies, technical agencies, WHO, UNICEF, the World Bank, the pharmaceutical industry, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation – namely, improving access to sustainable immunization services; expanding the use of all existing safe and cost-effective vaccines; accelerating the development and introduction of new vaccines; accelerating research and development efforts for vaccines and related products specifically needed by developing countries, particularly vaccines against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis; and making immunization coverage a centrepiece in the design and assessment of international development efforts, including debt relief;

2. URGES Member States:

(1) to support the work of the Alliance by calling upon leaders at the highest levels to back vaccine and immunization initiatives in their countries, and to remove obstacles that reduce access to vaccines;

(2) to formulate common strategies to enhance immunization delivery and to stimulate introduction of vaccines;

(3) to increase national efforts devoted to childhood immunization;

¹ See document EB105/2000/REC/1, Annex 1.

- (4) to encourage public and private agencies to meet the objectives of the Alliance;
- (5) to support and further the objectives of the Alliance through the Global Fund for Children's Vaccines and other existing mechanisms among the partners;
- (6) to support new financing mechanisms for vaccine development and immunization;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to promote the objectives of the Alliance through leadership in the field of vaccines and immunization;
- (2) to advocate increased private and public sector support for vaccine research and development and for the strengthening of immunization services in the poorest countries;
- (3) to promote and to monitor strictly the quality assurance of vaccines;
- (4) to report on progress and activities of the Alliance to the Executive Board at its 109th session in January 2002 and to the Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly in May 2002.

Agenda item 17

Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations

Aligning the participation of Palestine in the World Health Organization with its participation in the United Nations

The Fifty-third World Health Assembly,

Bearing in mind United Nations General Assembly resolution 52/250 adopted on 7 July 1998 and entitled "Participation of Palestine in the work of the United Nations",

DECIDES to confer upon Palestine in the World Health Assembly and other meetings of the World Health Organization, in its capacity as an observer, the rights and privileges described in the Annex to the aforementioned resolution of the United Nations General Assembly.¹

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

52/250. Participation of Palestine in the work of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947, in which, *inter alia*, it recommended the partition of Palestine into a Jewish State and an Arab State, with Jerusalem as a *corpus separatum*,

Recalling also its resolution 3237 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974, by which it granted observer status to the Palestine Liberation Organization,

Recalling further its resolution 43/160 A of 9 December 1988, adopted under the item entitled "Observer status of national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States", in which it decided that the Palestine Liberation Organization was entitled to have its communications issued and circulated as official documents of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolution 43/177 of 15 December 1988, in which it acknowledged the proclamation of the State of Palestine by the Palestine National Council on 15 November 1988 and decided that the designation "Palestine" should be used in place of the designation "Palestine Liberation Organization" in the United Nations system,

Recalling also its resolutions 49/12 A of 9 November 1994 and 49/12 B of 24 May 1995, through which, *inter alia*, arrangements for the special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, in addition to applying to all Member and observer States, were also applied to Palestine, in its capacity as observer, including in the organizing process of the list of speakers for the commemorative meeting,

¹ See resolution 52/250 and Annex, below.

Recalling further that Palestine enjoys full membership in the Group of Asian States and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia,

Aware that Palestine is a full member of the League of Arab States, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the Group of 77 and China,

Aware also that general democratic Palestinian elections were held on 20 January 1996 and that the Palestinian Authority was established on part of the occupied Palestinian territory,

Desirous of contributing to the achievement of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, thus attaining a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East,

1. *Decides* to confer upon Palestine, in its capacity as observer, and as contained in the annex to the present resolution, additional rights and privileges of participation in the sessions and work of the General Assembly and the international conferences convened under the auspices of the Assembly or other organs of the United Nations, as well as in United Nations conferences;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly, within the current session, about the implementation of the modalities annexed to the present resolution.

89th plenary meeting
7 July 1998

ANNEX

The additional rights and privileges of participation of Palestine shall be effected through the following modalities, without prejudice to the existing rights and privileges:

1. The right to participate in the general debate of the General Assembly.
2. Without prejudice to the priority of Member States, Palestine shall have the right of inscription on the list of speakers under agenda items other than Palestinian and Middle East issues at any plenary meeting of the General Assembly, after the last Member State inscribed on the list of that meeting.
3. The right of reply.
4. The right to raise points of order related to the proceedings on Palestinian and Middle East issues, provided that the right to raise such a point of order shall not include the right to challenge the decision of the presiding officer.
5. The right to co-sponsor draft resolutions and decisions on Palestinian and Middle East issues. Such draft resolutions and decisions shall be put to a vote only upon request from a Member State.
6. The right to make interventions, with a precursory explanation or the recall of relevant General Assembly resolutions being made only once by the President of the General Assembly at the start of each session of the Assembly.
7. Seating for Palestine shall be arranged immediately after non-member States and before the other observers; and with the allocation of six seats in the General Assembly Hall.
8. Palestine shall not have the right to vote or to put forward candidates.

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