



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

FIFTY-FIFTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
Provisional agenda item 13.2

A55/6
1 May 2002

WHO's contribution to achievement of the development goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration

Note by the Director-General

1. At its 109th session the Executive Board adopted resolution EB109.3 recommending to the Fifty-fifth World Health Assembly the adoption of a resolution on WHO's contribution to achievement of the development goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. As background to consideration of the draft resolution by the Health Assembly this note outlines ongoing work on this subject.
2. Since their adoption by Heads of State in September 2000, the goals of the Declaration have assumed growing importance. They cover the fields of peace, security and disarmament; development and poverty eradication; protecting the common environment; human rights, democracy and good governance; protecting the vulnerable; and meeting the special needs of Africa. The primary responsibility for their achievement is incumbent on Member States. The United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions, and other international organizations have also begun to integrate the goals into their own planning, objectives and activities as they cooperate with countries to achieve them.
3. The development and poverty eradication goals of the Declaration had much of their origin in the work of the international conferences of the past decade, and have found echo in recent efforts among States to build a global consensus on tackling the development agenda. Further work on refining these goals was submitted to the United Nations General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session (2001), when they were grouped into eight "Millennium Development Goals" (see Annex). Three of them are directly related to health, and there is a health dimension to all the others.
4. The United Nations Secretary-General will be reporting annually on selected goals to the United Nations General Assembly, with a view to covering all of them over a number of years. This year he will report on the treatment and prevention of diseases, and also on preventing armed conflict. In preparation, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB),¹ under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General, considered a report by WHO's Director-General on the first of these two themes at its session in Rome in mid-April 2002. Issues reviewed were the current situation regarding the direct health goals; the analysis and costings of the Commission on Macroeconomics

¹ Formerly ACC.

and Health relating to their attainment;¹ and work to coordinate the approach of the United Nations system to collaborating with countries to achieve the goals.

5. In addition, CEB also reviewed plans drawn up by UNDP concerning a strategy for the United Nations system as a whole to help meet the Millennium Development Goals. Among subjects discussed were a project (similar in some ways to the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health) to bring global knowledge to bear on analysis and dissemination of strategies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals at country level; an initiative both globally and with countries to determine indicators and to monitor progress; and a public campaign to help raise awareness, disseminate information and build new coalitions for action.

6. Within WHO, the Millennium Development Goals are being taken into account both in current work and in preparing the Organization's goals in the strategic programme budget for 2004-2005. There is already a considerable degree of alignment in the direct health goals as nations drew on the existing body of work to build the Millennium Declaration. In addition, as recognized in the draft resolution submitted to the Health Assembly, work in areas not directly referred to in the Declaration, such as reproductive health, will contribute to the attainment of the goals.

ACTION BY THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY

7. The Health Assembly is invited to consider the draft resolution contained in resolution EB109.3.

¹ See document A55/5.

ANNEX

UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1	Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day. • Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.
2	Achieve universal primary education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling.
3	Promote gender equality and empower women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015.
4	Reduce child mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce by two-thirds the mortality rate among children under five.
5	Improve maternal health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce by three-quarters the maternal mortality ratio.
6	Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS. • Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.
7	Ensure environmental sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources. • Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking-water. • Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020.
8	Develop a global partnership for development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and nondiscriminatory. Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – nationally and internationally. • Address the special needs of the least developed countries. This includes tariff- and quota-free access for their exports; enhanced debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries; cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction. • Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States. • Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long term.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In cooperation with the developing countries, create decent and productive work for young people.• In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.• In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies – especially information and communications technologies.
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