



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

FIFTY-SIXTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

(Draft) A56/64
27 May 2003

Fourth report of Committee B

(Draft)

Committee B held its fifth and sixth meetings on 26 May 2003 under the chairmanship of Mr L. Rokovada (Fiji) and Dr R. Constantinu (Romania).

It was decided to recommend to the Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly the adoption of the attached decision and one resolution relating to the following agenda items:

21. Policy for relations with nongovernmental organizations

One decision

14. Technical and health matters

14.5 World Summit on Sustainable Development

One resolution entitled:

– Strategic approach to international chemicals management: participation of global health partners

Agenda item 21

Policy for relations with nongovernmental organizations

The Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly decided to request the Executive Board to review further at its 113th session the policy for relations with nongovernmental organizations, including amendments proposed during consideration of this item, and to report to the Fifty-seventh World Health Assembly with its recommendations.

Agenda item 14.5

Strategic approach to international chemicals management: participation of global health partners

The Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly,

Recalling the first principle of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, namely, that “Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature”;

Noting that the Bahia Declaration on Chemical Safety and the Priorities for Action Beyond 2000 of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety emphasized the essential role of sound management of chemicals in sustainable development and the protection of human health and the environment;

Further noting that the World Summit on Sustainable Development Plan of Implementation, paragraph 23(b) calls for further development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management and urges international organizations dealing with chemical management to cooperate closely in this regard;

Fully supporting the UNEP Governing Council Decision 22/4 to further develop a strategic approach to international chemicals management following an open, transparent and inclusive process and providing all stakeholders opportunities to participate; and the invitation to a range of international organizations, including WHO, to collaborate actively in the further development of the strategic approach;

Noting the involvement of WHO in the Steering Committee of the strategic approach to international chemicals management established to act as a facilitative steering mechanism to deal with practical aspects of the strategic approach;

Noting also the role of WHO as the administering organization for the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety;

Mindful of WHO’s contribution to the international management of chemicals through the International Programme on Chemical Safety, a cooperative venture between ILO, WHO and UNEP;

Recalling resolution WHA45.32 on the International Programme, which emphasized the need to establish or strengthen governmental mechanisms to provide liaison and coordination between authorities and institutions involved in chemical safety activities, and resolution WHA42.26 on WHO’s contribution to the international efforts towards sustainable development, which considered that equitable health development is an essential prerequisite for socioeconomic development;

Recognizing the need for health interests at country level to be reflected in, and addressed by, the strategic approach to international chemicals management,

1. URGES Member States to take full account of the health aspects of chemical safety in further development of the strategic approach to international chemicals management;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to support the continuing roles of WHO and the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety in overseeing development of the strategic approach through membership of its Steering Committee;
- (2) to contribute to the content of the strategic approach, in accordance with the invitation of the UNEP Governing Council, through initial submission of possible health-focused elements and participation of WHO in preparatory meetings and the final conference;
- (3) to submit a progress report to the Health Assembly before the estimated date of completion of the strategic approach;
- (4) when completed, to submit the strategic approach to international chemicals management to the Health Assembly for consideration.

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