



FIFTY-SIXTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

WHA56.7

Agenda item 14.1

26 May 2003

Pan African tsetse and trypanosomiasis eradication campaign

The Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on Pan African tsetse and trypanosomiasis eradication campaign;¹

Acknowledging that pain, suffering and death from trypanosomiasis are a daily threat to more than 60 million people in 37 countries of sub-Saharan Africa, 22 of which are among the least developed countries;

Realizing that trypanosomiasis, which causes an estimated annual loss of US\$ 4.5 thousand million, is one of Africa's greatest constraints to socioeconomic development, severely affecting human and livestock health, limiting land use, causing poverty, and perpetuating underdevelopment on the African continent;

Noting that eradication of tsetse flies would significantly contribute to increasing human well-being and productivity of crops and livestock and to reducing rural poverty on the African continent;

Noting further that a multisectoral approach to tsetse fly and trypanosomiasis eradication programmes has in the past been successful in drastically reducing both bovine and human trypanosomiasis;

Realizing, therefore, that eradication of tsetse flies, which transmit the disease to both humans and animals, is the only effective, long-term solution to fight the disease;

Recognizing decisions AHG/156 (XXXVI) of 12 July 2000 and AHG/169 (XXXVII) of 11 July 2001 by the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU)² to free Africa of tsetse flies, and their endorsement of and commitment to OAU's Plan of Action for the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC);

Aware that the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his report to the United Nations Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2001 acknowledged the problem of trypanosomiasis and

¹ Document A56/9.

² Now the African Union.

called upon all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, and the international community fully to support OAU's Campaign;

Welcoming resolution GC (45)/RES/12 adopted in September 2001 by the Forty-fifth General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, supporting OAU's Campaign and calling upon Member States to provide technical, financial and material support to African States in their efforts to eradicate tsetse flies;

Noting that the Campaign was officially launched in Ouagadougou on 5 October 2001;

Further noting the adoption by the thirty-first session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization (2-13 November 2001) of a resolution requesting FAO to support African Member States in their efforts to eradicate tsetse flies and, in particular, OAU's Campaign;

Recalling resolution WHA50.36 on African trypanosomiasis, and welcoming the significant efforts undertaken jointly by OAU, FAO, IAEA and WHO through the Programme Against African Trypanosomiasis to find solutions within the framework of sustainable development to the problems caused by human and animal trypanosomiasis;

Reaffirming that WHO is committed to mobilizing and streamlining its activities to combat trypanosomiasis, particularly in support of surveillance and control, in cooperation with organizations of the United Nations system and other partners, including the private sector,

1. WELCOMES OAU's initiative to eradicate tsetse flies from Africa as an essential step to fighting trypanosomiasis and to removing the threat that this disease represents to the health of African populations;
2. COMMENDS the efforts being made by WHO and other partners, including the private sector, to monitor and control the disease and to implement a programme for the elimination of African trypanosomiasis as a public health problem, which contribute to the global fight against this disease;
3. URGES Member States and competent international organizations to provide support to African Members in their efforts to eradicate tsetse flies and, in particular, to OAU's Plan of Action for the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC);
4. REQUESTS the Director-General to report on progress made in implementation of this resolution to the Executive Board at its 113th session and to the Fifty-seventh World Health Assembly.

Ninth plenary meeting, 26 May 2003
A56/VR/9

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