



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

FIFTY-EIGHTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

(Draft) A58/62
25 May 2005

Seventh report of Committee A

(Draft)

Committee A held its twelfth and thirteenth meetings on 24 May 2005 under the chairmanship of Dr Bijan Sadrizadeh (Islamic Republic of Iran). During the twelfth meeting Pehin Dato Abu Bakar Apong (Brunei Darussalam) later took the chair ad interim.

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

13. Technical and health matters

13.10 Antimicrobial resistance: a threat to global health security

One resolution entitled:

- Improving the containment of antimicrobial resistance

13.17 eHealth

One resolution

13.9 Strengthening pandemic influenza preparedness and response

One resolution entitled:

- Enhancement of laboratory biosafety

Agenda item 13.10

Improving the containment of antimicrobial resistance

The Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on rational use of medicines by prescribers and patients;

Acknowledging that the containment of antimicrobial resistance is a prerequisite for attaining several of the internationally agreed health-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

Recalling the recommendations of the Second International Conference on Improving Use of Medicines (Chiang Mai, Thailand, 2004);

Recalling also the findings of relevant WHO reports, including “Priority medicines for Europe and the world”,¹ and the Copenhagen Recommendation from the European Union conference on “The Microbial Threat” (Copenhagen, 1998);

Aware that the spread of antimicrobial resistance recognizes no national boundaries and has reached proportions that require urgent action at national, regional and global levels, especially in view of the decreasing development of new antimicrobial agents;

Recalling previous resolutions WHA39.27 and WHA47.13 on the rational use of drugs, WHA51.17 on antimicrobial resistance, and WHA54.14 on global health security;

Recognizing the efforts of WHO in collaboration with governments, universities, the private sector and nongovernmental organizations to contain antimicrobial resistance, thereby contributing to prevention of the spread of infectious diseases;

Noting that, despite some progress, the strategy for containment of antimicrobial resistance has not been widely implemented;²

Wishing to intensify efforts to contain antimicrobial resistance and to promote rational use of antimicrobial agents by providers and consumers in order to improve global health security;

Re-emphasizing the need for a coherent, comprehensive and integrated national approach to promoting the containment of antimicrobial resistance;

Convinced that it is time for governments, the health professions, civil society, the private sector and the international community to reaffirm their commitment to ensuring that sufficient investment is made to contain antimicrobial resistance,

¹ Document WHO/EDM/PAR/2004.7.

² Document WHO/CDS/CSR/DRS/2001.2.

1. URGES Member States:

- (1) to ensure the development of a coherent, comprehensive and integrated national approach to implementing the strategy for containment of antimicrobial resistance taking account, where appropriate, of financial and other incentives that might have a harmful impact on policies for prescribing and dispensing;
- (2) to enhance rational use of antimicrobial agents, including through development and enforcement of national standard-practice guidelines for common infections, in public and private health sectors;
- (3) to strengthen, as appropriate, their legislation on availability of medicines in general and of antimicrobial agents in particular;
- (4) to mobilize human and financial resources in order to minimize the development and spread of antimicrobial resistance, in particular by the promotion of the rational use of antimicrobial agents by providers and consumers;
- (5) to monitor effectively and to control nosocomial infections;
- (6) to monitor regularly the use of antimicrobial agents and the level of antimicrobial resistance in all relevant sectors;
- (7) to share actively knowledge and experience on best practices in promoting the rational use of antimicrobial agents;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to strengthen the leadership role of WHO in containing antimicrobial resistance;
- (2) to accelerate the implementation of resolutions WHA51.17 and WHA54.14 concerning the containment of antimicrobial resistance by expanding and strengthening the provision of technical support to Member States, at their request;
- (3) to collaborate with other relevant programmes and partners in order to promote the appropriate use of antimicrobial agents in the context of the rational use of medicines, by scaling up interventions proven to be effective and to provide support for the sharing of knowledge and experience among stakeholders on best practice;
- (4) to provide support for the generation of up-to-date information on antimicrobial resistance at regional and subregional levels and to make this available to Member States and other parties;
- (5) to provide support for gathering and sharing of evidence on cost-effective interventions for prevention and control of antimicrobial resistance at national and local levels;
- (6) to report to the Sixtieth World Health Assembly, and subsequently on a regular basis, on progress achieved, problems encountered and further actions proposed in implementing this resolution.

Agenda item 13.17

eHealth

The Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on eHealth;¹

Noting the potential impact that advances in information and communication technologies could have on health-care delivery, public health, research and health-related activities for the benefit of both low- and high-income countries;

Aware that advances in information and communication technologies have raised expectations for health;

Respecting the human rights, ethical issues and the principles of equity and considering differences in culture, education, language, geographical location, physical and mental ability, age, and sex;

Recognizing that a WHO eHealth strategy would serve as a basis for WHO's activities on eHealth;

Recalling resolution WHA51.9 on cross-border advertising, promotion, and sale of medical products through the Internet;

Stressing that eHealth is the cost-effective and secure use of information and communications technologies in support of health and health-related fields, including health-care services, health surveillance, health literature, and health education, knowledge and research,

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to consider drawing up a long-term strategic plan for developing and implementing eHealth services in the various areas of health sectors, including health administration, which includes an appropriate legal framework and infrastructure and encourages public and private partnerships;

(2) to develop the infrastructure for information and communication technologies for health as deemed appropriate to promote equitable, affordable, and universal access to their benefits, and to continue to work with information and telecommunication agencies and other partners in order to reduce costs and make eHealth successful;

(3) to build on closer collaboration with the private and non-profit sectors in information and communication technologies, so as to further public services for health and make use of the

¹ Document A58/21.

eHealth services of WHO and other health organizations, and to seek their support in the area of eHealth;

(4) to endeavour to reach communities, including vulnerable groups, with eHealth services appropriate to their needs;

(5) to mobilize multisectoral collaboration for determining evidence-based eHealth standards and norms, to evaluate eHealth activities, and to share the knowledge of cost-effective models, thus ensuring quality, safety and ethical standards and respect for the principles of confidentiality of information, privacy, equity and equality;

(6) to establish national centres and networks of excellence for eHealth best practice, policy coordination, and technical support for health-care delivery, service improvement, information to citizens, capacity building, and surveillance;

(7) to consider establishing and implementing national electronic public-health information systems and to improve, by means of information, the capacity for surveillance of, and rapid response to, disease and public-health emergencies;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to promote international, multisectoral collaboration with a view to improving compatibility of administrative and technical solutions and ethical guidelines in the area of eHealth;

(2) to expand the use of electronic information through the submission of regular reports, to document and analyse developments and trends, to inform policy and practice in countries, and to report regularly on use of eHealth worldwide;

(3) to facilitate the development of model eHealth solutions which with appropriate modification could be established in national centres and networks of excellence for eHealth;

(4) to provide technical support to Member States in relation to eHealth products and services by disseminating widely experiences and best practices, in particular on telemedicine technology; devising assessment methodologies; promoting research and development; and furthering standards through diffusion of guidelines;

(5) to facilitate the integration of eHealth in health systems and services, including in the deployment of telemedicine infrastructure in countries where medical coverage is inadequate and in the training of health-care professionals and in capacity building, in order to improve access to, and quality and safety of, care;

(6) to continue the expansion to Member States of mechanisms such as the Health Academy, which promote health awareness and healthy lifestyles through eLearning;

(7) to provide support to Member States to promote the development, application and management of national standards of health information; and to collect and collate available information on standards with a view to establishing national standardized health information systems in order to facilitate easy and effective exchange of information among Member States;

- (8) to support in the area of eHealth regional and interregional initiatives or those among groups of countries that speak a common language;
- (9) to submit to the Executive Board, at its 117th session, a list of proposed specific activities upon which the Secretariat will focus, which should be entirely aimed at tools and services that Member States can incorporate into their own national solutions or adapt as necessary, and an outline of the budgetary implications of proposed activities.

Agenda item 13.9

Enhancement of laboratory biosafety

The Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Considering that release of microbiological agents and toxins may have global ramifications;

Acknowledging that the containment of microbiological agents and toxins in laboratories is critical to preventing outbreaks of emerging and re-emerging diseases such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS);

Recognizing the work of WHO in promoting laboratory biosafety;

Acknowledging that a number of Member States do have in place effective laboratory biosafety controls and guidelines for laboratory practice in order to manage the risks to laboratory workers and the community from microbiological agents and toxins;

Recognizing that some Member States may not have adequate biosafety controls in place;

Noting that an integrated approach to laboratory biosafety, including containment of microbiological agents and toxins, promotes global public health,

1. URGES Member States:

- (1) to review the safety of their laboratories and their existing protocols for the safe handling of microbiological agents and toxins, consistent with WHO's biosafety guidance;
- (2) to implement specific programmes, consistent with WHO's biosafety guidance, to promote biosafety laboratory practices for the safe handling and transport, including containment, of microbiological agents and toxins;
- (3) to develop national preparedness plans and national programmes that enhance compliance of laboratories, including those within the government, at universities and research centres, and in the private sector, particularly those handling highly virulent microbiological agents and toxins, with biosafety guidelines for laboratory practices;
- (4) to mobilize national and international human and financial resources to improve laboratory biosafety, including containment of microbiological agents and toxins, in order to minimize the possibility of laboratory acquired infections and resultant spread to the community;
- (5) to cooperate with other Member States to facilitate access to laboratory biosafety equipment, including personal protective equipment and containment devices, for the prevention and control of laboratory acquired infection;

(6) to encourage the development of biological-safety training programmes and competency standards for laboratory workers in order to improve safety awareness and safe laboratory practices;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to ensure that WHO plays an active role, in accordance with its mandate, towards the task of improving laboratory biosafety and containment of microbiological agents and toxins;

(2) to provide support to other relevant programmes and partners in strengthening their efforts to promote improved laboratory biosafety and containment of microbiological agents and toxins;

(3) to provide support to the development and sharing of knowledge and experience among Member States for enhancing laboratory biosafety, including containment of microbiological agents and toxins, including the regular update of relevant WHO guidelines and manuals in consultation with all Member States with a view to accommodating their concerns;

(4) to provide, in response to requests from Member States, technical support for strengthening laboratory biosafety, including containment of microbiological agents and toxins;

(5) to report regularly to the Executive Board on the implementation of this resolution.

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