

WHO's role in the follow-up to the United Nations High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals (New York, September 2010)

The Sixty-fourth World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions WHA63.15 and WHA61.18 on monitoring of the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals, and WHA63.24 on accelerated progress towards achievement of Millennium Development Goal 4 to reduce child mortality: prevention and treatment of pneumonia;

Expressing deep concern at the slow pace of progress in achieving Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 on reducing child mortality and on improving maternal health;

Acknowledging that much more needs to be done in achieving the Millennium Development Goals as progress has been uneven among regions and between and within countries, despite the fact that developing countries have made significant efforts;

Recognizing that adequate antenatal care reduces the risks of maternal mortality, prematurity and other complications of pregnancy and delivery that can result in poor health outcomes for mothers and neonates;

Recognizing the need to work towards greater transparency and accountability in international development cooperation regarding health, in both donor and developing countries, focusing on adequate and predictable financial resources as well as their improved quality and targeting;

Welcoming the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health launched at the United Nations High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals (New York, September 2010), and acknowledging the strong political and financial commitment by Member States to follow up and implement the strategy;

Noting the United Nations Secretary-General's request that WHO lead a process to determine the most effective international institutional arrangements for global reporting, oversight and accountability on women's and children's health, including through the United Nations system;

Stressing that the monitoring of resource flows and results is a vital requirement for improving the accountability and responsiveness by governments and international development partners in addressing health issues;

Welcoming the establishment of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health, which consists of high-level representatives;

Stressing that concerns related to health equity and rights should also be addressed in efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

Stressing that the Commission should take into account relevant existing data collections and existing performance indicators;

Welcoming the final report of the Commission and its set of recommendations for strengthening accountability for resources and results in women and children's health,

1. URGES Member States¹ to implement the recommendations provided by the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health to improve the accountability of results and resources;

2. REQUESTS the Executive Board to review progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission, starting at its 130th session, January 2012;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to ensure the effective engagement of all stakeholders in the follow-up to the work of the Commission;

(2) to report annually until 2015 to the World Health Assembly on progress achieved in connection with the agenda item concerning the Millennium Development Goals.

Tenth plenary meeting, 24 May 2011
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¹ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.