

Third report of Committee A

Committee A held its seventh meeting on 23 May 2013. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Dr Walter T. Gwenigale (Liberia).

It was decided to recommend to the Sixty-sixth World Health Assembly the adoption of the attached resolution relating to the following agenda item:

14 Promoting health through the life course

14.2 Follow-up actions to recommendations of the high-level commissions convened to advance women's and children's health

One resolution, as amended, entitled:

- Implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children

Agenda item 14.2

Implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children

The Sixty-sixth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on follow-up actions to recommendations of the high-level commissions convened to advance women's and children's health;¹

Recalling resolution WHA63.15 on monitoring of the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals and resolution WHA65.7 on implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health;

Recalling also that the United Nations Secretary-General called upon the global community through the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health to work together to save 16 million lives by 2015;

Acknowledging the pledges and commitments made by a large number of Member States and partners to the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health;

Recognizing that millions of women and children die needlessly every year from conditions that are easily prevented with existing, inexpensive medical commodities;

Recognizing also the need urgently to address and overcome the barriers that prevent women and children from accessing and using appropriate commodities;

Welcoming the report of the United Nations Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children, which estimates that six million lives can be saved within five years by improving access to 13 specific, overlooked commodities and related products (see Annex);

Welcoming also the actions recommended by the United Nations Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children and the implementation plan to deliver the actions;

Acknowledging that the actions recommended by the United Nations Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children's Health will also increase access to a broader set of commodities;

Acknowledging also the need to promote, establish or support and strengthen the health services needed by women and children from before pregnancy to delivery, during the immediate post-delivery period, and childhood;

¹ Document A66/14.

Reaffirming the importance of facilitating technology transfer on mutually agreed terms between developed and developing countries as well as among developing countries, as appropriate;

Acknowledging the role of the independent Expert Review Group in reviewing the progress made in implementing the recommended actions,

1. URGES Member States to put into practice, as appropriate, the implementation plan on life-saving commodities for women and children, including:

- (1) improving the quality, supply and use of the 13 life-saving commodities and other essential commodities for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, under the supervision and guidance of health care professionals, where needed, and building upon information and communication technology best practices for making these improvements;
- (2) developing plans to implement at scale appropriate interventions in order to increase demand for and utilization of health services, particularly among underserved populations;
- (3) facilitating universal access for all members of society, in particular the poorest, to the 13 life-saving commodities and other essential commodities for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health;
- (4) improving regulatory efficiency by harmonizing registration requirements and streamlining assessment processes, including granting priority review to the life-saving commodities;
- (5) implementing proven mechanisms and interventions to ensure that health care providers are knowledgeable about the latest national guidelines for maternal and child health;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to work with UNICEF, UNFPA, World Bank, UNAIDS, UN Women, national, regional and international regulators, private sector actors and other partners to promote and assure the availability of safe, quality commodities;
- (2) to work with and support Member States, as appropriate, in improving regulatory efficiency, standardizing and harmonizing registration requirements and streamlining assessment processes, including granting priority review to the products belonging to the life-saving commodities;
- (3) to provide support to the independent Expert Review Group on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health in its work on assessing progress of the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health and implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children;
- (4) to report annually until 2015 to the World Health Assembly, through the Executive Board, on progress achieved in the follow-up of the recommendations of the Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children in connection with the agenda item concerning promoting health through the life course.

ANNEX

Commodities by life stage¹

Maternal health commodities	
1	Oxytocin – post partum haemorrhage (PPH)
2	Misoprostol – post-partum haemorrhage
3	Magnesium sulfate – eclampsia and severe pre-eclampsia
Newborn health commodities	
4	Injectable antibiotics – newborn sepsis
5	Antenatal corticosteroids (ANCs) – preterm respiratory distress syndrome
6	Chlorhexidine – newborn cord care
7	Resuscitation devices – newborn asphyxia
Child health commodities	
8	Amoxicillin – pneumonia
9	Oral rehydration salts – diarrhoea
10	Zinc – diarrhoea
Reproductive health commodities	
11	Female condoms
12	Contraceptive implants – family planning/contraception
13	Emergency contraception – family planning/contraception

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¹ See United Nations Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women and Children, Commissioner's Report, September 2012, Table 1, page 7.