

# **Contributing to social and economic development: sustainable action across sectors to improve health and health equity**

## **Report by the Secretariat**

1. The Executive Board at its 134th session noted an earlier version of document EB134/54<sup>1</sup> and adopted resolution EB134.R8.<sup>2</sup> The information in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 below has been updated.

### **ACTION BY THE HEALTH ASSEMBLY**

2. The Health Assembly is invited to note the report and adopt the draft resolution recommended by the Executive Board in resolution EB134.R8.

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<sup>1</sup> See the summary records of the Executive Board at its 134th session, seventh meeting, and ninth meeting, section 3.

<sup>2</sup> See document EB134/2014/REC/1 for the resolution, and for the financial and administrative implications for the Secretariat of the adoption of the resolution.





**EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
**134th session**  
**Provisional agenda item 8.7**

**EB134/54**  
**17 January 2014**

## **Contributing to social and economic development: sustainable action across sectors to improve health and health equity (follow up of the 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion)**

### **Report by the Secretariat**

1. This report provides information on the outcome of the 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion (Helsinki, 10–14 June 2013). The Government of Finland and WHO jointly organized the Global Conference, which was hosted by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland in Helsinki. The Conference aimed to:

- (a) facilitate the exchange of experiences and lessons learnt and give guidance on effective mechanisms for promoting intersectoral action;
- (b) review approaches for overcoming barriers and building capacity for implementing Health in All Policies;
- (c) identify opportunities to implement the recommendations of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health through Health in All Policies;
- (d) establish and review the economic, developmental and social cases for investing in Health in All Policies;
- (e) consider the contribution of health promotion in the renewal and reform of primary health care; and
- (f) review the progress, impact and achievements of health promotion since the First International Conference on Health Promotion (Ottawa, 21 November 1986).

2. The 8th Global Conference on Health Promotion was the latest in the series of global expert conferences on health promotion,<sup>1</sup> originally inspired by the Alma Ata Declaration on Primary Health

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<sup>1</sup> The series includes the conferences held in Ottawa (1986), Adelaide, Australia (1988), Sundsvall, Sweden (1991), Jakarta (1997), Mexico City (2000), Bangkok (2005), Nairobi (2009) and Helsinki (2013).

Care (1978) and the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion (1986), which identified intersectoral action and healthy public policy as central elements for the promotion of health, the achievement of health equity and the realization of health as a human right. In total, 659 government officials and experts from 122 Member States attended the Conference, including representatives from 26 least developed countries, around 20 nongovernmental organizations and 10 organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations.

3. The Conference was the first in the series of eight to which all Member States were invited. A Circular Letter was dispatched requesting Member States to nominate up to two representatives to participate in the Conference (one from the health sector and one from a sector other than health). In accordance with resolution WHA50.1, funding was provided to cover the cost of one delegate per least developed country.

## **OUTCOMES**

4. The key outcomes of the Conference included the Helsinki Statement on Health in All Policies, which was endorsed by the participants attending.<sup>1</sup> In addition, a paper entitled “Health In All Policies Framework for Country Action” was prepared following the Conference.<sup>2</sup>

5. In the lead up to the Conference, a large number of country examples and practical guides were produced by WHO. These included case studies compiled by the WHO regional offices for Africa, the Americas, South-East Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean, and the WHO Centre for Health Development, Kobe, Japan, as well as guides published by the Regional Office for Europe. A regional framework for country action is also being finalized by the Regional Office for South-East Asia. A training package has been developed, and training was conducted in the Regional Office for the Western Pacific. In addition, examples of good practice and practical guides were compiled, more than 20 personal reflections were videotaped and all plenary sessions were webcast.<sup>3</sup>

## **IMMEDIATE FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS**

6. The following actions are planned: key outcomes of the Conference, including a selection of country presentations, are scheduled to be published in an academic journal by June 2014; WHO will work with its partners to review and implement, as appropriate, the Framework for Country Action; and progress on promoting Health in All Policies will be reviewed at the 9th Global Conference, which is due to be held towards the end of 2016.

## **ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

7. The Board is invited to note this report.

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<sup>1</sup> Available at [http://www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/8gchp/statement\\_2013/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/healthpromotion/conferences/8gchp/statement_2013/en/index.html) (accessed 15 January 2014).

<sup>2</sup> Available at <http://www.who.int/healthpromotion/frameworkforcountryaction/en> (accessed 17 January 2014).

<sup>3</sup> The videos concerned are available at <http://healthpromotion2013.org/media-healthpromotion2013/videos> (accessed 5 March 2014).