
Health emergency in Ukraine and refugee receiving and hosting countries, stemming from the Russian Federation's aggression

**Draft resolution proposed by Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria,
Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia,
Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France,
Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan,
Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, New
Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic
of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey,
Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and
United States of America**

The Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly,

PP1 Recalling UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/ES-11/1 of 2 March 2022, entitled "Aggression against Ukraine"; UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/ES-11/2 of 24 March 2022, entitled "Humanitarian consequences of the aggression against Ukraine"; as well as UN Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/RES/49/1 of 4 March 2022, entitled "Situation of human rights in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression";

PP2 Recalling United Nations Security Council resolution 2286 (2016) on protection of the wounded and sick, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel in armed conflict; United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/182 "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations," and all relevant subsequent resolutions; World Health Assembly resolution WHA65.20 (2012) "WHO's response, and role as the health cluster lead, in meeting the growing demands of health in humanitarian emergencies"; and World Health Assembly decision WHA69(9) (2016) "Reform of WHO's work in health emergency management: WHO Health Emergencies Programme";

PP3 Welcoming the legally binding provisional measures order by the International Court of Justice of 16 March 2022, ordering the Russian Federation to immediately suspend the military operations that it commenced on 24 February 2022 in the territory of Ukraine;

PP4 Noting the adoption by the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, during its special session held on 10 May 2022, of a resolution entitled "Health emergency in Ukraine and neighboring countries, stemming from the Russian Federation's aggression", asking, inter alia, the WHO Regional Director for

Europe to consider temporarily suspending all regional meetings in the Russian Federation, including technical meetings and meetings of experts, as well as conferences and seminars whose composition is set by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, until peaceful resolution of the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine is implemented and the Russian Federation withdraws its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders;

PP5 Recalling the Constitution of the World Health Organization and its references to the Charter of the United Nations; the obligation of all States under Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, and to settle their international disputes by peaceful means; and the obligation under Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations, that all Members, in order to ensure the rights and benefits resulting from membership, shall fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed by them in accordance with the Charter;

PP6 Recalling also that health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity;

PP7 Reaffirming that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition, and that peace and security are critical to the attainment of this human right;

PP8 Recalling the functions of the World Health Organization which include, inter alia, to furnish appropriate technical assistance and, in emergencies, necessary aid;

PP9 Recognizing the grave concern over the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine in statements by, inter alia, the UN Secretary-General¹ and the WHO Director-General^{2 3};

PP10 Expressing grave concerns over the ongoing health emergency in Ukraine and refugee receiving and hosting countries, triggered by the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, resulting in conflict-related trauma and injuries as well as increased risks of illness and death from non-communicable diseases (NCDs), of emergence and spread of infectious diseases, of mental health and psychosocial health deterioration, of human trafficking, of gender-based violence, and of sexual and reproductive health including maternal and child health deterioration;

PP11 Alarmed in particular by the disproportionate impact of disrupted health services on vulnerable groups, such as women and children, internally displaced persons, elderly people and persons with disabilities;

PP12 Further alarmed by the health impacts of the Russian Federation's aggression which have regional and wider-than-regional significance, including, inter alia, significant numbers of refugees fleeing Ukraine; the risks of radiological, biological and chemical events and hazards; and the exacerbation of an already significant global food security crisis;

¹ UN Secretary-General's remarks at press conference with President of Ukraine on 28 April 2022.

² WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the WHO press conference on 13 April 2022.

³ WHO Director-General's statement at the special session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe on 10 May 2022.

PP13 Recalling the Emergency appeal launched by the World Health Organization for Ukraine and refugee receiving and hosting countries on 3 March 2022,

OP1 CONDEMNS IN THE STRONGEST TERMS Russian Federation's military aggression against Ukraine, including attacks on health care facilities documented via the WHO's Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care (SSA);

OP2 DRAWS ATTENTION to the fact that the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine constitutes exceptional circumstances, causing a serious impediment to the health of the population of Ukraine, as well as having regional and wider than regional health impacts;

OP3 URGES the Russian Federation to immediately cease any attacks on hospitals and other healthcare facilities;

OP4 ALSO URGES the Russian Federation to fully respect and protect all medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment;

OP5 FURTHER URGES respect for and protection of the sick and wounded, including civilians, health and humanitarian aid workers, healthcare systems consistent with the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, and with broader international humanitarian law;

OP6 DECIDES that continued action by the Russian Federation to the detriment of the health situation in Ukraine, at regional and global levels, would necessitate that the Assembly should consider the application of relevant articles of WHO Constitution

OP7. URGES the relevant Member States:

(1) to adhere to international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and WHO norms and standards;

(2) to allow and facilitate safe, rapid and unhindered access to populations in need of assistance by staff deployed by the World Health Organization on the ground, and by all other medical and humanitarian personnel;

(3) to ensure the free flow of essential medicines, medical equipment and other health technologies in all conflict and non-conflict areas;

OP8. ENCOURAGES all WHO Member States:

(1) to increase contributions to the WHO Emergency Appeal for Ukraine and refugee receiving and hosting countries, to the WHO Contingency Fund for Emergencies, and to WHO's work in other health emergencies, many of which have been exacerbated by the Russian Federation's military aggression against Ukraine;

(2) to maintain or increase support for the UN-led response to address the health and other urgent needs of the people of Ukraine and mitigate the negative health impact of the conflict, as well as other critical relief efforts around the globe;

OP9. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to make available the staffing, financial resources, and leadership support needed across all three levels of the organization for an effective and accountable humanitarian and emergency health response, including critical Health Cluster Functions, under the leadership of the Health Emergencies Program and in line with relevant World Health Assembly resolutions;
- (2) to ensure that the health response under WHO's leadership on the ground adheres to the best standards on prevention of and response to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment and, in collaboration with other agencies, provide adequate health care and support to the victims, and document cases of sexual abuse, including by the military;
- (3) to continue supporting the health sectors of Ukraine and refugee receiving and hosting countries using a health system approach, including through capacity-building programs in preparedness and response to trauma care and mass casualties as well as in maintenance of basic health services and the promotion of access thereto in a context of conflict;
- (4) to support the sustainable procurement of essential medicines, medical equipment and other health technologies;
- (5) to pursue the monitoring, collection, documentation and dissemination of data on attacks on healthcare facilities, health workers, health transports, and patients in Ukraine;
- (6) to assess, in full cooperation with Health Cluster partners and other relevant United Nations agencies, the extent and nature of psychiatric morbidity, and other forms of mental health problems, resulting from the protracted situation in Ukraine and refugee receiving and hosting countries;
- (7) to ensure the allocation of adequate human and financial resources in order to achieve these objectives;
- (8) to submit to the Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly in 2023, through the 152nd session of the Executive Board, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including an assessment of the direct and indirect impact of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine on the health of the population of Ukraine, as well as regional and wider than regional health impacts.

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