

Health emergency in and around Ukraine and refugee receiving and hosting countries

Draft resolution proposed by the Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic

The Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly,

PP1 Recalling the functions of the World Health Organization which include, inter alia, to furnish appropriate technical assistance and, in emergencies, necessary aid;

PP2 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;

PP3 Recalling that health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity;

PP4 Recalling also World Health Assembly resolution WHA65.20 “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) “Reform of WHO’s work in health emergency management: WHO Health Emergencies Programme”;

PP5 Recalling also United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/182 “Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations,” and all relevant subsequent resolutions;

PP6 Expressing grave concerns over the ongoing health emergency in and around Ukraine and refugee receiving and hosting countries, 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;

PP7 Expressing grave concern at reports of civilian casualties, including children, in and around Ukraine;

PP8 Expressing further grave concern at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in and around Ukraine, with an increasing number of internally displaced persons and refugees in need of humanitarian assistance;

PP9 Endorsing the call of the United Nations Secretary-General to return to the path of dialogue and negotiations;

PP10 Demanding that all parties respect their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law;

PP11 Strongly condemning attacks directed against civilians and health objects, including using civilians as live shields, indiscriminate shelling as well as placing military objects and equipment in densely populated areas and near civilian objects and using such objects for military purposes, endangering lives of civilian population in violation of international humanitarian law;

PP12 Calling on all parties to respect and protect humanitarian personnel, their facilities, equipment, transport and supplies and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, as well as the delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including internally displaced persons;

PP13 Urging all parties to take necessary steps to ensure the protection of the wounded and sick, as well as the safety and security of medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their facilities, equipment, transports and supplies, including by developing effective measures to prevent and address acts of violence, attacks and threats against them, and to ensure that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required, and reiterating the applicable rules of international humanitarian law relating to the non-punishment of any person for carrying out medical activities compatible with medical ethics;

PP14 Stressing the need to ensure humane treatment of detainees in accordance with international humanitarian law,

OP1 DEMANDS that civilians, including humanitarian personnel and persons in vulnerable situations, including women and children are fully protected;

OP2 DEMANDS all parties concerned to ensure the respect for and protection of all medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in their medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, hospitals and other medical facilities;

OP3 DEMANDS from all parties concerned full respect for provisions of international humanitarian law in connection with objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population and civilian infrastructure that is critical to enable the delivery of essential services in armed conflict, and to refrain from deliberately placing military objects and equipment in the vicinity of such objects or in the midst of densely populated areas, as well as not to use civilian objects for military purposes;

OP4 CALLS UPON all parties concerned to allow safe and unhindered passage including for foreign nationals without discrimination, to destinations outside of Ukraine, and facilitate safe and unhindered access of humanitarian assistance to those in need in and around Ukraine, taking into account the particular needs of women, girls, men and boys, older persons and persons with disabilities;

OP5 CONDEMNS all violations of international humanitarian law and violations of human rights, and calls upon all parties to respect strictly the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocol I thereto, of 1977 and to respect international human rights law, as applicable;

OP6 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;

OP7. 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;
- (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;

OP8. 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 UN and 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 in and around 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 and around 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 and around 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.

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