

## **Health emergency in and around Ukraine**

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

The Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly,

(PP1) Expressing grave concern at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in and around Ukraine, with a large number of internally displaced persons and refugees in need of humanitarian assistance;

(PP2) Recognizing that humanitarian emergencies result in loss of life and human suffering, weaken the ability of health systems to deliver essential life-saving health services, and produce setbacks for health development;

(PP3) 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 the lives of the civilian population in violation of international humanitarian law;

(PP4) Reaffirming the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect these principles;

(PP5) Expressing grave concerns over the ongoing health emergency resulting in conflict-related trauma and injuries as well as increased risks of illness and death from noncommunicable diseases, 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;

(PP6) Calling on all parties concerned to refrain from politicization of the global health cooperation and avoid confrontational rhetoric which undermines international efforts of supporting developing countries which currently receive limited assistance as the resources are diverted to military build-up instead of recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;

(PP7) Expressing serious concern about the decision of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe on 15 May 2023 to close the uninterruptedly and in full-scale functioning WHO European Office for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in Moscow under the political pretext of the situation in Ukraine as it will undermine 10 years of successful regional cooperation in combating noncommunicable diseases and deprive people of the region, especially those in vulnerable situations, of regular assistance;

(PP8) Calling on all parties concerned 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;

(PP9) Expressing serious concern that the current WHO Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care (SSA) does not reflect effectively all the incidents with attacks on health care facilities;

(PP10) Urging all parties concerned to take the necessary steps to ensure 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 *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;

(PP11) Highly assessing efforts of the refugee-receiving and -hosting countries to ensure that medical support, including mental health services, is provided to all refugees, especially women and children,

(OP)1. DEMANDS that civilians, including humanitarian personnel and persons in vulnerable situations, including women and children, are fully protected in conflict situation;

(OP)2. DEMANDS also all parties concerned to respect their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law;

(OP)3. DEMANDS further 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;

(OP)4. DEMANDS all parties concerned to fully respect the 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;

(OP)5. 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;

(OP)6. URGES the relevant Member States to:

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

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

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

(OP)7. REQUESTS the Director-General to:

(1) 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 WHO Health Emergencies Programme and in line with relevant United Nations and Health Assembly resolutions;

(2) continue comprehensive monitoring and reporting to the Health Assembly on health emergencies, including the situation in Ukraine;

(3) evaluate the Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care (SSA) and improve the monitoring, collection, documentation and dissemination of data on attacks on health care facilities, health workers, health transports and patients;

(4) 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;

(5) submit to the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly in 2024, through the Executive Board at its 154th session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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