

## AIDE-MEMOIRE

### ELEVENTH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF HEALTH OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE WHO SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION, DHAKA, BANGLADESH 1-3 NOVEMBER 1993

#### 1. Venue and Date

H.E. Mr Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, has conveyed the offer of his Government to host the Eleventh Meeting of Ministers of Health from 1 to 3 November 1993 in Dhaka. Accordingly, the Regional Director addressed a letter to the Honourable Ministers of Health in November 1992 seeking their opinion about their convenience about the suitability of dates of the meeting, and suggestions/views on items and other relevant matters to be included in the agenda for the Eleventh meeting. Please see Annex II for summary of the replies received from the Honourable Ministers.

#### 2. Proposed Agenda

Keeping in view the limited time of the meeting, and also with a view to allow time for individual meetings among Honourable Ministers, the following topics, based on the suggestions of the Honourable Ministers, are proposed for inclusion in the agenda of the Eleventh meeting of Ministers of Health:

- A. Inauguration
- B. Business Session
  - 1. Election of Chairman and adoption of agenda
  - 2. Progress in the implementation of recommendations of the Tenth Meeting of Ministers of Health
  - 3. TCDC programming in health
  - 4. Health management including health manpower development
  - 5. New concerns in health scene - AIDS, EPI diseases
  - 6. Future actions for old scourges - Malaria, TB, Leprosy
  - 7. Any other business
- C. Adoption of the report of the meeting and closure

In the preparation of the above tentative agenda, the responses and suggestions of all the Honourable Ministers had been taken into consideration. Note has also been taken of the items discussed in the last ten meetings of the Ministers of Health. A list showing the substantive agenda items discussed in these meetings is enclosed at Annex 3.

Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) in health, as a concept, crystallized more or less at the same time as the Alma Ata Declaration, when the United Nations Conference on TCDC held in Buenos Aires decided to take concrete action to encourage the use of TCDC mechanisms among countries. The Progress of TCDC has been reviewed regularly by the Ministers at their previous meetings. An interregional Meeting on TCDC Programming in Health has been held in Jakarta in February 1993 and

the report of this Consultation would be provided to the Ministers to facilitate discussion on this topic.

The countries in the South-East Asia Region have made remarkable progress in achieving high immunization status. There are, however, both technical and financial difficulties facing the countries in maintaining and improving upon the momentum already gained. Exchange of experience and views would be useful particularly since this programme has paramount effect not only on reduction of infant mortality but also ensuring safe motherhood.

The availability of adequately trained and appropriately oriented manpower is crucial. For any development to occur in a meaningful manner, adequate attention has to be paid on development of human resources. This becomes even more important in the unfolding situation of Laissez faire. The Governments have a responsibility to ensure sufficient inputs for development and deployment of health manpower.

### 3. Programme

The Meeting of Ministers of Health is proposed to be held from 1 to 3 November 1993 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The provisional programme suggested is at Annex 1.

### 4. Field Visit

At their fourth meeting, the Ministers felt that it would be useful if, during the meetings of Health Ministers, field visits, particularly to rural areas were organized in order to demonstrate the transition of policies and strategies into action at a field level. Such visits have been organized by host Governments since then. The views and decision of the Bangladesh Government concerning organizing a field visit and on the actual subject and specific area for the field visit, if any, are awaited.

### 5. Background documents and country papers

WHO would, as usual, prepare background documents on each of the agenda item and send them to the Honourable Ministers and their Advisers sufficiently in advance. Some other relevant documents or papers, if any, would be made available as information documents. In regard to the agenda items proposed by the Health Ministers of Thailand, India, and Nepal, and included in the tentative agenda, it would be useful if the Honourable Ministers of these countries could request their officials to send in advance the background material or information for inclusion in the documents to be prepared by WHO. It would also be necessary for all Member States to send to WHO, information on progress achieved in implementing the decisions of the Tenth Meeting of Ministers of Health, by June 1993 at the latest.

### 6. Advisers to the Ministers

WHO would support both travel and per diem of one Adviser from each country. The names of Advisers may please be intimated in advance. It is also suggested for consideration

that the Adviser be a senior official who is conversant with health matters *technically and familiar with national health administration and WHO, and preferably one who has participated in the earlier meetings of Ministers of Health.*

7. Travel

Travel from home country to and from Dhaka, Bangladesh, and accommodation should be planned well in advance. As usual, WHO will reimburse the travel cost of the equivalent of one economy/tourist return air ticket and a per diem to the Honourable Ministers for the duration of the meeting, as admissible under the rules, though the Honourable Ministers may make their own travel arrangements.

Keeping in mind the heavy agenda and field visit, it is advisable that the honourable ministers plan to stay three complete days in Dhaka, viz. 1 to 3 November 1993, arriving on 31 October and leaving on 4 November.

8. Official invitation

Once the Honourable Ministers agree to hold their Eleventh Meeting along with the programme of the Meeting (modified, if so desired) the Regional Director will finalize the programme and send confirmation to Honourable Ministers. H.E. Mr Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, People's Republic of Bangladesh, as host Minister, will also send official invitations to all the Ministers.