



REGIONAL COMMITTEE

SEA/RC24/8

Twenty-fourth Session

30 July 1971

Provisional Agenda item 11

RESOLUTIONS OF REGIONAL INTEREST ADOPTED BY  
THE TWENTY-FOURTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Resolutions of the Twenty-fourth World Health Assembly on the following subjects are attached:

1. REGIONAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA: EXTENSION OF THE REGIONAL OFFICE BUILDING (WHA24.25, copy attached)

The Committee may like to note this resolution.

2. SITUATION OF THE CHOLERA PANDEMIC (WHA24.26, copy attached)

Cholera has spread to areas in Africa, the East Mediterranean and Europe, where it had not been recorded for some time. The characteristics of the present pandemic are: "quick spread" and relatively low mortality; it is caused mostly by the Vibrio cholerae El Tor biotype.

The Committee may like to note the Assembly's resolution, particularly operative paragraph 3, Part I, concerning contribution to the Voluntary Fund for Health Promotion, and Part II, in which Member States have been asked not to apply unjustified embargo on the importation of foodstuffs from countries which report cholera cases. The resolution also outlines the activities to be undertaken by the Organization as regards the prevention and treatment of cholera.

3. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMMES (WHA24.30)

This subject forms a separate item on the agenda (item 10).

4. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEDICAL USE OF IONIZING RADIATION (WHA24.31, copy attached)

In this resolution, the Assembly, noting that deleterious biological effects may result from the exposure of the population to ionizing radiation, which plays such an important role in preventive medicine, diagnosis and treatment, has called on Member States to take measures to improve this situation, and has also recommended action by the Director-General. The Committee may like to note this resolution and particularly the studies and organization of services outlined in operative paragraph 1.

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5. DISINSECTION OF AIRCRAFT (WHA24.36, copy attached)

The methods used at present for disinsection of aircraft are: (1) disinsection in flight and (2) 'blocks-away' disinsection. These methods have proved to be ineffective, as about 84% of the mosquitoes caught in a disinfected aircraft have been found alive as there is insufficient penetration of the aerosoles into all areas where mosquitoes can hide themselves. Therefore a disinsection with vapour which penetrates like gases (everywhere) has been recommended.

Studies have been made to find (a) a suitable system to introduce the insecticide into all spaces of the aircraft, and (b) an insecticide (and alternates to this insecticide) which will be effective and not toxic or irritative to human beings. Some difficulties have been encountered with the mechanism for injection of the insecticide into the aircraft, and until these are solved, the Assembly recommends that Member States carry out the methods used up to the present, i.e., disinsection in flight and "'blocks-away' disinsection."

The Committee may wish to note this resolution.

6. SMALLPOX ERADICATION (WHA24.45, copy attached)

Significant progress has been made in the national smallpox eradication programmes in the countries of the Region. Intensified effort is now required so as to attain the objective of eradication in the shortest time possible.

In order to ensure that the effective strategy based on active surveillance, rapid reporting, immediate investigation and containment of all outbreaks results in further interruption of smallpox transmission, it is important for all countries in which the disease is still endemic to give the utmost priority to the further improvement of these measures.

The Regional Committee may wish to take special note of operative paras 1 and 2 of the resolution.

7. PROBLEMS OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (WHA24.47, copy attached)

The Committee may wish to note this resolution, especially the recommendation to Member States that health considerations be a major concern of governments in preparing their contributions for the Conference on the Human Environment to be held in Stockholm in 1972.

8. STRATEGY FOR HEALTH DURING THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE (WHA24.49, copy attached)

The United Nations General Assembly on 24 October 1970, in its Resolution A/Res/2626(XXV), proclaimed the Second United Nations Development Decade as starting from 1 January 1971. The World Health Assembly, recognizing the

importance of this resolution, and in view of its adoption of the General Programme of Work Covering a Specific Period as well as recalling resolutions of earlier Health Assemblies, adopted resolution WHA 24.49.

Attention is particularly called to operative para 2 of this resolution, which brings out the need for Member States to secure for health its proper place in socio-economic development and for increased efforts on the part of developing countries to raise their levels of health, being supported by developed countries.

9. COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY:  
REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES  
OF THE PROGRAMME FOR WHO (WHA24.55)

A separate paper on this subject is presented (see document SEA/RC24/9).

10. DRUG DEPENDENCE (WHA24.57, copy attached)

The Committee's attention is invited to this resolution, which contains the declaration that, in combatting the abuse of and addiction to drugs, WHO has a responsibility to provide leadership, guidance and technical assistance to Member States in the fields of treatment, rehabilitation, education, prevention and research. The Assembly calls on the Director-General to assist Member Governments in developing procedures for the co-ordination of their national drug abuse control programmes. The Committee may be gratified to note that additional funds for expanding programmes of this nature may become available from the newly established United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

The Regional Committee may like to consider reiterating the Assembly's requests to Member States (in operative paras 7 and 8) regarding accession to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances and provisionally applying the control measures provided in the Convention, pending its entry into force.

11. TRAINING OF NATIONAL HEALTH PERSONNEL (WHA24.59,  
copy attached)

This resolution confirms the conclusions of earlier World Health Assemblies on the extreme shortage of health personnel, their training and their rational utilization as related to protection and promotion of the health of the populations. Stressing the importance of factors related to this problem (operative para 3), the resolution calls upon Member States to give priority attention in their social and economic plans to the problems of training and utilization of health personnel, and also to the correct social orientation of such personnel towards participation in the activities of the public health services and towards serving the interest of their own peoples and society.

The Committee may also be interested in operative para 6, which indicates the line of future action for WHO.

It may be recalled that the Regional Committee, at its twenty-second session, adopted a resolution (SEA/RC22/R11) on the training of health workers, the provisions of which the Committee, at its present session, might wish to reaffirm.