



INDEXED

DRAFT THIRD REPORT OF COMMITTEE A

During the course of its tenth and eleventh meetings held on 20 May 1974, the Committee, in proceeding with the detailed review of the programme and budget estimates for 1975, decided to recommend to the Twenty-seventh World Health Assembly the adoption of the attached resolutions on the following subjects:

Infant nutrition and breast-feeding

Promotion of national health services



INFANT NUTRITION AND BREAST-FEEDING

The Twenty-seventh World Health Assembly,

Reaffirming that breast-feeding has proved to be the most appropriate and successful nutritional solution for the harmonious development of the child;

Noting the general decline in breast-feeding, related to sociocultural and environmental factors, including the mistaken idea caused by misleading sales promotion that breast-feeding is inferior to feeding with manufactured breast-milk substitutes;

Observing that this decline is one of the factors contributing to infant mortality and malnutrition, in particular in the developing world; and

Realizing that mothers who feed their babies with manufactured foods are often unable to afford an adequate supply of such foods and that even if they can afford such foods the tendency to malnutrition is frequently aggravated because of lack of understanding of the amount and correct and hygienic preparation of the food which should be given to the child,

1. RECOMMENDS strongly the encouragement of breast-feeding as the ideal feeding in order to promote harmonious physical and mental development of children;
2. CALLS the attention of countries to the necessity of taking adequate social measures for mothers working away from their homes during the lactation period, such as arranging special work timetables so that they can breast-feed their children;
3. URGES Member countries to review sales promotion activities on baby foods and to introduce appropriate remedial measures, including advertisement codes and legislation where necessary;
4. URGES the Director-General to intensify activities relevant to the promotion of breast-feeding, to bring those matters to the notice of the medical profession and health administrators and to emphasize the need for health personnel, mothers and the general public to be educated accordingly; and
5. REQUESTS the Director-General to promote and further support activities related to the preparation and use of weaning foods based on local products.

PROMOTION OF NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Twenty-seventh World Health Assembly,

Having reviewed the Director-General's annual report<sup>1</sup> for 1973 which points out the disparities between the levels of development of the health services of the Member States owing to the different stages reached in their social and economic development, and taking into account the fifth report on the world health situation and the discussions to which the review of these reports depicting the health situation at the national level gave rise;

Recalling the resolutions WHA23.61, WHA25.17, WHA26.35 and WHA26.43;

Considering that the goals and objectives of WHO directed towards the improvement and protection of health can be facilitated through the harmonious development of the health services;

Mindful of the need to concentrate WHO's activities in order to ensure that they produce a continuing impact on health programmes;

Taking into account the experience which has been acquired by some Member States which may assist in the adoption of methods which would accelerate the development of the health structures and systems of other Member States;

1. CONSIDERS it necessary to concentrate WHO's efforts in order to assist governments to direct their health service programmes towards their major health objectives with priority being given to the rapid and effective development of the health delivery system in the light of the specific economic and social context of each country, and at the same time to support the continuous training and instruction of the necessary national health personnel; and

2. REQUESTS the Director-General to report to the fifty-fifth session of the Executive Board and the Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly upon the proposed steps which could be undertaken by WHO to further this and the related resolutions referred to above, and which could result in the more effective coordination between WHO's activities and the national health programmes.

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<sup>1</sup> Off. Rec. Wld Hlth Org., No. 213.