

THIRTY-SECOND WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

WHA32.39

25 May 1979



## LEPROSY

The Thirty-second World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions WHA29.70 and WHA30.36 and previous other resolutions both of the World Health Assembly and the Executive Board;

Noting:

- (a) the progress made throughout the world since the adoption of the above resolutions - particularly in studies of ultra-structure, histochemistry, bacteriology, immunology, chemotherapy and prophylaxis;
- (b) that leprosy, in spite of such advances, is still a major public health and social problem in some countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America and Pacific Islands;
- (c) that urgent and resolute steps will be necessary to control leprosy if the concept of Health for all by the year 2000 is to become a practical possibility, since the periods of incubation and infectivity of leprosy may extend up to a considerable number of years;

1. URGES Member States with endemic leprosy to:

- (1) allocate adequate resources to carry out effective leprosy programmes, including training of their own personnel;
- (2) support treatment, physical and social rehabilitation and vocational programmes for leprosy patients to make them self-reliant and self-supporting;
- (3) review the current practices of isolation of leprosy patients in specialized institutions, where this exists, in order to achieve their progressive integration as active and fully accepted members of society;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General to:

- (1) intensify the Organization's activities for leprosy control in the next decade, in contribution to the attainment of the objective: Health for all by the year 2000;
- (2) cooperate with Member States with endemic leprosy to develop effective programmes for prevention and treatment of leprosy;
- (3) continue to mobilize resources from extrabudgetary sources both for the leprosy control programme and for the Special Programme of Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, particularly for epidemiological surveys and chemotherapeutic trials, and to promote relevant research for the development of new drugs as well as in the field of immunology with the objective of producing a vaccine for prophylaxis; and
- (4) report to the Thirty-fifth World Health Assembly on the steps taken.

Fourteenth plenary meeting, 25 May 1979  
A32/VR/14