



THIRTY-FOURTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY



WHA34.26

22 May 1981

PROMOTION OF PREVENTION OF ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS OF DISASTERS AND
EMERGENCIES THROUGH PREPAREDNESS

The Thirty-fourth World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions EB51.R43, EB55.R62 and WHA28.48 on the role of the World Health Organization in emergencies and disasters;

Noting that a great number of Member States, in particular developing countries in view of their socioeconomic situation, are vulnerable to the effects of disasters;

Recognizing that sudden calamities and disasters adversely affect a country's health services and impede its development;

Stressing that, despite the undoubted importance of relief in emergencies, preventive measures and preparedness are of fundamental importance;

Reaffirming that the Organization should assume a leadership role in disaster preparedness;

1. COMMENDS the Director-General for his valuable efforts in providing and coordinating emergency relief for disaster-stricken countries;
2. URGES Member States to strengthen the Organization's role in all health aspects of disasters and to increase their direct cooperation with countries at risk;
3. REQUESTS the Director-General, while continuing the Organization's useful emergency action, to strengthen its capacity and increase its resources, whether from budgetary or extrabudgetary sources, to promote the development of approaches to the prevention of adverse health effects of disasters, when possible, and the preparedness of Member States to deal with disasters, to participate in the coordination of aid and to report on the matter to future Health Assemblies.

Sixteenth Plenary Meeting, 22 May 1981
A34/VR/16