



Seventy-ninth Session

EB79.R17

Agenda item 7.2

22 January 1987



36580

USE OF ALCOHOL IN MEDICINES

The Executive Board,

Following its review of the Report by the Director-General on the use of alcohol in medicines;<sup>1</sup>

RECOMMENDS to the Fortieth World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Fortieth World Health Assembly,

Aware of the risks of excessive alcohol consumption to the individual's health;

Noting that alcohol is present in many medicines, including medicine administered to children, in unnecessary concentrations which may even have a deleterious effect;

Recognizing the harmful effects of alcohol, especially during pregnancy, and the interactions that may take place when alcohol is taken at the same time as medicines;

Noting the increasing concern felt by physicians and pharmacists at the inappropriate use of alcohol in medicines;

Taking into account the feasibility, proved by scientific research, of replacing alcohol in many medicines by non-alcoholic substances without affecting the efficacy of the medicines;

Believing that national essential drug lists should include drugs that contain alcohol only when alcohol is an essential ingredient;

Taking note of resolution EM/RC32/R.9 on the use of alcohol in medicaments adopted by the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean at its thirty-second session;

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to review the registration of medicines containing alcohol as an active ingredient with a view to reducing its use as much as feasible, in particular where alcohol can be replaced by a nonalcoholic substance;

(2) to take steps to reduce as much as possible the alcohol concentration in medicine in cases where no suitable alternative to alcohol is available;

<sup>1</sup> Document EB79/9.

