

FORTY-FIRST WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

WHA41.19

Agenda item 23

13 May 1988

TRADITIONAL MEDICINE AND MEDICINAL PLANTS

30847

The Forty-first World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions of the Health Assembly concerning traditional medicine in general (WHA40.33) and medicinal plants in particular (WHA31.33);

Realizing that, as a consequence of the loss of plant diversity around the world, many of the plants that provide traditional and modern drugs are threatened with extinction;

Commending the Director-General for having taken the initiative of convening an International Consultation on the Conservation of Medicinal Plants, in association with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the World Wildlife Fund;

Noting that the Consultation resulted in the adoption of the Chiang Mai Declaration reaffirming commitment to the collective goal of "Health for All by the Year 2000" through the primary health care approach, and to the principles of conservation and sustainable development outlined in the World Conservation Strategy;¹

Endorsing the call for international cooperation and coordination to establish programmes for the conservation of medicinal plants, to ensure that adequate quantities are available for future generations;

1. URGES Member States:

- (1) to examine the situation with regard to their indigenous medicinal plants;
- (2) to take effective measures to ensure their conservation and encourage their sustainable utilization;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to promote intercountry meetings for the dissemination of knowledge and the exchange of experience on the subject;
- (2) to collaborate with Member States in the design and implementation of programmes for the conservation and sustainable utilization of medicinal plants;
- (3) to report on the progress achieved to a subsequent World Health Assembly.

Fifteenth plenary meeting, 13 May 1988
A41/VR/15

¹ Document A41/INF.DOC./8.