

FORTY-FIRST WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

WHA41.27

Agenda item 12

13 May 1988

THE ROLE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY IN ATTAINING HEALTH FOR ALL

30855

The Forty-first World Health Assembly,

Noting the importance of epidemiology as a tool for the formulation of rational health policy;

Recognizing the essential role of epidemiology not only in studying the causes and means of prevention of disease but also in health systems research, information support, technology assessment, and the management and evaluation of health services;

Recalling that the role of epidemiology in the work of WHO has for many years been emphasized by the World Health Assembly;

Emphasizing the needs of Member States for relevant epidemiological input in preparing and updating their health-for-all strategies, defining related targets and monitoring and evaluating their attainment;

Noting with concern the discrepancy between the content of training in epidemiology in most schools of medicine, public health and other health sciences and the needs of Member States;

Encouraged by the interest shown by epidemiologists and their associations including the International Epidemiological Association in promoting the broader view of epidemiology encompassing consideration of economic, social, cultural and other factors relevant to contemporary health problems, and in promoting related training;

1. URGES Member States to make greater use of epidemiological data, concepts and methods in preparing, updating, monitoring and evaluating their health-for-all strategies;
2. APPEALS to schools of medicine, public health and other health sciences to ensure training in modern epidemiology that is relevant to countries' needs regarding their health-for-all strategies and, in particular, the needs of developing countries;
3. WELCOMES the involvement and willingness of many epidemiologists around the world to collaborate with WHO in promoting new trends in epidemiology and related training;
4. REQUESTS the Director-General:
 - (1) to convene as soon as possible a group of experts including adequate representation from developing countries to define the desired nature and scope of epidemiology in support of health-for-all strategies and related training in the expanded role of epidemiology;

