



FORTY-SECOND WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Provisional agenda item 30.1

COLLABORATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM - GENERAL MATTERS

Report by the Director-General

The following report informs the Health Assembly of matters of direct concern to WHO in its collaborative activities within the United Nations system. It is presented in three sections: A. Matters reported to the Executive Board at its eighty-third session, in January 1989; B. Resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-third session (20 September to 22 December 1988); and C. Other matters.

The text of United Nations General Assembly resolution 43/15, on the prevention and control of AIDS, is reproduced in the Annex. The texts of other resolutions are available to delegates on request.

A. MATTERS REPORTED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AT ITS EIGHTY-THIRD SESSION

I. OBSERVATION OF THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF WHO

1. The forty-third session of the General Assembly of the United Nations devoted part of its thirty-eighth plenary meeting on 27 October 1988 to the observance of the fortieth anniversary of WHO in accordance with resolution 42/168 adopted in 1987. The broad aspects of WHO's work in promoting better health for all were highlighted and honoured by a large number of speakers from most regions of the world. The occasion was also used for a discussion by the General Assembly of the Global Programme on the Prevention and Control of AIDS (see chapter II below).

2. The Director-General of WHO addressed the special commemorative session. He pointed out that WHO was a powerful and constructive network of protection against disease, suffering and death, the Organization being empowered to define standards and norms and to act as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work in close cooperation with its Member States. He outlined the many achievements of the Organization and its targets for the future such as an intensified anti-tobacco programme and the eradication of poliomyelitis before the year 2000. The biggest challenge remaining was to lessen the gap between the "haves" and "have-nots", to ensure social equity and availability of appropriate health services and technology, which were fundamental to the well-being of all people.

3. The Vice-President acting on behalf of the President of the General Assembly said that WHO had many outstanding achievements to its credit. One of the foremost was the conquest of smallpox in 1977. The savings to the countries of the world had been more than US\$ 1000 million each year. The savings in terms of human suffering and misery could never be calculated. Equally important was WHO's initiative in conceptualizing and disseminating the primary health care approach, which was leading to a virtual health revolution applicable to both developed and developing countries and emphasizing individual and community responsibility. The President congratulated WHO for its good work and expressed the hope that it would continue to face with determination the future challenges confronting mankind in the field of health and disease.

4. The Secretary-General of the United Nations noted that since its establishment 40 years ago the World Health Organization had made an outstanding contribution to human welfare. He also referred to WHO's laudable achievements and extended his congratulations to WHO through its Director-General. He noted further that WHO's impressive record was a cause for hope that, eventually, a way would be found to deal effectively with the deadly disease of AIDS.

## II. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF AIDS

5. The General Assembly of the United Nations in commemorating the fortieth anniversary of WHO was called upon by its Secretary-General to reaffirm its commitment to join in the worldwide struggle against AIDS and to pledge determination to solve the problem posed by the AIDS pandemic. The Director-General of WHO briefed the General Assembly on the global AIDS problem. He gave recent information on the number of cases worldwide, the anticipated development and the strategies being pursued within WHO's Global Programme on AIDS as contained in his report submitted through the Economic and Social Council in July 1988 to the General Assembly (document A/43/341).

6. Representatives of a number of States, including the Secretary of State for Health of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Surgeon General of the United States of America, commended WHO's work and expressed concern for the potentially devastating effects the disease could have on countries' development plans and programmes, the dangers inherent in stigmatizing people infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or who had AIDS and the potential discrimination against them. Several speakers outlined their national programmes to combat this scourge.

7. The General Assembly adopted resolution 43/15 entitled "Prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)", which recalls inter alia resolution WHA41.24 on the avoidance of discrimination in relation to HIV-infected people and people with AIDS, stresses the importance of the appropriate observance of World AIDS Day on 1 December 1988, reaffirms the essential role of WHO's global direction and coordination of AIDS prevention, control, research and education, commends those governments which have established national programmes in line with the global strategy and urges others to take similar action. Resolution 43/15 also requests the Secretary-General to ensure a coordinated response by the United Nations system to the AIDS pandemic and urges all appropriate organizations to continue to support the worldwide struggle against AIDS.

8. WHO's collaboration with other organizations of the United Nations system is accelerating as they analyse the effect of HIV on their programmes and develop their plans of action. An Inter-Agency Advisory Group (IAAG) was established under the chairmanship of WHO for inter-agency cooperation and coordination and first met in September 1988. The United Nations Steering Committee which groups its subsidiary organs under the chairmanship of the Under Secretary-General for International, Economic and Social Affairs provides a coordinated input to the work of IAAG. IAAG recommended that all United Nations bodies should establish a focal point for AIDS and the necessary internal coordination mechanism for information exchange. WHO has offered to provide technical support and funds to enable United Nations bodies to commence certain AIDS-related activities with minimal delay. At the request of IAAG, resolution WHA41.24 has been distributed to all members for a review of its implications for each agency's particular area of competence, and for consideration of its endorsement.

9. The following specific activities are currently in progress:

(a) The WHO/UNDP Alliance to Combat AIDS signed in March 1988 and reported to the Health Assembly in May 1988 is providing the framework for UNDP resident representatives to collaborate in the Global Programme on AIDS to implement, monitor and evaluate national programme support activities. The Alliance will ensure coordinated support for such national plans by all partners, including the United Nations system.

(b) Following the joint UNESCO/WHO meeting of educational specialists held in Paris (29 June to 1 July 1987), UNESCO is encouraging AIDS education in schools and developing materials which can be integrated into existing formal (school) and informal educational programmes. To accelerate the process joint briefing meetings were held with UNESCO field staff and UNESCO-affiliated nongovernmental organizations in Geneva (14-21 April 1988). A workshop on school health education to prevent AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases was held in Ghent (26-30 September 1988) with the support of the Belgian Government to review guidelines on curriculum development prepared by the Global Programme on AIDS in consultation with other WHO programmes. The guidelines are intended for policy-makers, and the curricula are designed for use in the development, implementation and evaluation of school-based education, on AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases.

(c) WHO and UNICEF have issued a "Joint statement on immunization and AIDS" and up-to-date information to field staff concerning the sterilization of syringes and needles. The statement reiterates that all injections should be given with a sterile syringe and a sterile needle. UNICEF participated in the consultation on HIV and routine childhood immunization, the consultation on breast-feeding, breast milk and HIV infection, in national donor meetings and other AIDS meetings, and is increasing its activities in support of national AIDS programmes. Cooperation with UNICEF was highlighted when WHO activities at the country level were presented before the Executive Board of UNICEF on 22 April 1988 and UNICEF's Regional Directors in New York on 3 May 1988.

(d) WHO is collaborating with the United Nations Office in Vienna (UNOV) to develop links between WHO and a number of programmes including those of the United Nations Division of Narcotic Drugs, International Narcotics Board, the UNFDAC, the Division of Social Development, and the Branch for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

(e) UNFPA is collaborating with WHO in assessing and developing the role of family planning and maternal and child health programmes in AIDS prevention and control activities. This cooperation has been strengthened through the appointment of an officer for liaison between UNFPA and WHO. A representative of WHO addressed a meeting of the national representatives of UNFPA in New York on 12 April 1988. UNFPA participated in the consultation on contraceptive methods and HIV infection and the consultation on breast-feeding, breast milk and HIV infection.

(f) The World Bank is collaborating in studies on the economic impact of AIDS in developing countries and on the demographic impact of AIDS. A model for estimating the direct treatment-related costs and the indirect costs from the years of social and economic productivity lost due to HIV infections and AIDS is in the initial phase of development in three central African countries (Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire). The initiative of the Director-General of WHO, aimed at a closer association of the World Bank with the global AIDS strategy, has been welcomed by the President of the World Bank, and discussions are continuing. The World Bank is an active partner in medium-term plans for national AIDS prevention and control programmes.

(g) The International Labour Conference adopted a resolution on AIDS at its seventy-fourth (Maritime) session, held in Geneva in September 1987: the Governing Body of ILO is requested to consider, in close collaboration with WHO, undertaking a study on the health problems of seafarers. In collaboration with ILO, WHO held a consultation on AIDS and the workplace from 27 to 29 June 1988. The "consensus statement" from the meeting, which sets out recommendations for policies regarding HIV-infected workers, has been widely distributed to governments, unions and employers. A joint WHO/ILO brochure on AIDS and the workplace will be released shortly. WHO/ILO cooperation was reported to the 241st session of the ILO Governing Body (14-18 November 1988), which welcomed these activities.

(h) WHO is collaborating with the FAO in the development and support of a study to assess the need for changes in agricultural policy in areas with a severe HIV/AIDS problem. FAO considers projections of demographic changes due to AIDS to be important in the formulation of future agricultural policies.

(i) A WHO brochure on AIDS information for travellers was released at the General Conference of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) on 27 September 1987. WTO has endorsed the brochure and has involved travel agents, airlines and tourism organizations in its reproduction and distribution. Official translations exist in English, French and Spanish.

(j) The Commission on Human Rights, Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities considered at its fortieth session (8 August to 2 September 1988) the information provided by WHO, the International Commission of Jurists and members of the Sub-Commission itself on the problem of discrimination against persons with HIV or persons with AIDS. The Sub-Commission decided that the information at hand and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the World Health Assembly justified consideration whether the Sub-Commission should study the problem; and it appointed one of its members to prepare, for submission to the Sub-Commission at its forty-first session in 1989, a note setting forth methods by which a study could be made. WHO is collaborating in this activity.

### III. COLLABORATION WITH SPECIFIC UNITED NATIONS BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

#### A. Operational activities for development

10. At the eighty-first session of the Executive Board, in January 1988, the Director-General reported the conclusions of the forty-second session of the United Nations General Assembly on operational activities for development and the adoption of resolution 42/196. The forty-third session of the General Assembly further discussed the subject with a view to implementing the main recommendations contained in the aforementioned resolution, and adopted resolution 43/199. The resolution reaffirmed the primary responsibility of recipient governments for coordinating development assistance at country level and also stressed the need for improved functioning of coordination of the United Nations system at that level. It further urged all relevant organs and bodies of the United Nations system to cooperate fully with the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 41/171 and 42/196, and to provide all the information requested in these resolutions, and invited Member States and the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system to address the issue of operational activities for development in their governing bodies, with a view to arriving at a coordinated and system-wide approach on this issue.

#### B. Environment

11. Environment was another subject discussed at length at the forty-third session of the General Assembly. At the conclusion of the discussions of the relevant committees, resolutions were adopted on the following: the conservation of climate as part of the common heritage of mankind (43/53); a United Nations conference on environment and development (43/196); and the responsibility of States for the protection of the environment and prevention of environmental pollution as a result of the accumulation of toxic and radioactive wastes, and strengthening of international cooperation for the purpose of resolving the problem (43/212).

12. By resolution 43/53, on the question of climate, the General Assembly recognized that climate change is a common concern of mankind, since climate is an essential condition which sustains life on earth, and determined that urgent action must be taken to deal with the problem of climate change within a global framework. It called upon organizations and programmes of the United Nations system (including WHO) to support the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change set up by the World Meteorological

Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme to carry out internationally coordinated scientific assessments of the magnitude, timing and potential impact of climate change.

13. In resolution 43/212 the General Assembly expressed its concern about the increase of the illegal international traffic in - and the dumping and resulting accumulation of - toxic and dangerous products and wastes in contravention of existing national legislation and relevant international legal instruments, adversely affecting many countries (particularly developing countries), as well as international waters, and called upon the international community (in particular developed countries) to strengthen scientific and technical cooperation with the developing countries and to provide appropriate assistance to them in their efforts to eliminate the adverse consequences of toxic and dangerous products and wastes for human health and the environment.

14. By resolution 43/196, on the long-term strategy for sustainable and environmentally sound development, the General Assembly decided to consider at its forty-fourth session the question of convening a United Nations conference on environment and development no later than 1992. One of the major objectives of the proposed conference is a review of trends in policies and actions taken by all countries and international organizations with a view to ensuring their incorporation in economic and social policies and planning.

C. Preparations for an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade

15. The General Assembly considered the proposal of launching an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, and adopted resolution 43/182 on this subject. By this resolution the General Assembly decided to establish an ad hoc committee of the whole for the preparation of the new international development strategy, and requested the ad hoc committee to submit a progress report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session for its consideration, with a view to finalizing the strategy in time for adoption in 1990; it also invited the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the regional commissions and other organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to include in their agenda during 1989 items regarding their contribution to the preparation of the international development strategy.

D. International campaign against drug abuse and illicit traffic in narcotic drugs

16. The General Assembly adopted three resolutions on this subject (43/120, 43/121 and 43/122). Resolution 43/122 called upon United Nations drug control bodies, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations to "give particular emphasis to activities identified in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/9 of 25 May 1988" in developing activities to implement the guiding principles of the Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the targets of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control.

E. The question of Palestine

17. The General Assembly discussed the question of Palestine both in New York and at its session held in Geneva (12-14 December 1988). A number of resolutions were adopted; amongst those noteworthy for the Executive Board were 43/176 and 43/177. By resolution 43/177 the General Assembly decided that "effective as of 15 December 1988, the designation 'Palestine' should be used in place of the designation 'Palestine Liberation Organization' in the United Nations system, without prejudice to the observer status and functions of the Palestine Liberation Organization within the United Nations system, in conformity with relevant United Nations resolutions and practice". The Secretary-General has been requested to take necessary action to implement that resolution.

18. In resolution 43/176 the General Assembly called for the "convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, under the auspices of the United

Nations, with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, on an equal footing, and the five permanent members of the Security Council, based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination".

F. Revitalization of the United Nations Economic and Social Council

19. By its decision 1987/112 the United Nations Economic and Social Council established the Special Commission to carry out an In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields and the Secretariat Support Structures, as called for by General Assembly resolution 41/213. The main purpose of the in-depth study was "to identify measures to rationalize and simplify the intergovernmental structure, avoid duplication and consider consolidating and coordinating overlapping activities and merging existing bodies in order to improve their work and make their structure more responsive to present needs". The Special Commission held protracted debates over several months in 1987 and 1988, but was unable to reach agreement on the reform of the intergovernmental machinery. The debate therefore continued during the second regular session of the Council in July 1988. It focused on the "revitalization" of its work, while difficult political issues concerning membership and the division of work between the Council and the General Assembly were referred back to the Assembly. It is important for the Executive Board to note that the Council adopted resolution 1988/77 entitled "Revitalization of the Economic and Social Council" on 29 July 1988, which is of some significance to the specialized agencies of the United Nations system. The following operative paragraphs of the resolution are therefore drawn to the Board's attention:

Section I. Policy formulation (a) (iv)

- a. The executive heads of the specialized agencies or their senior representatives should participate actively in the deliberations of the Council;
- b. The specialized agencies should be invited to resume submission of analytical summaries of their annual reports for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council.

Section II. Monitoring functions (b)

- (ii) The Council shall obtain information from the specialized agencies on the steps taken by them to give effect to the recommendations of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on economic, social and related matters that fall within their respective mandates and areas of competence; such information is to be included in the analytical summaries referred to in subparagraph (a) (iv) b. above;

Section III. Operational activities (d)

- (i) The Council, within its co-ordination functions, shall define, as and when necessary, overall priorities and specific activities for the organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, so that the operational activities for development of the United Nations system are carried out in a coherent and effective manner.

- (iv) The Council shall monitor the follow-up to its recommendations; organizations of the system should report to the Council on progress made in the implementation of those recommendations.

Section IV. Working methods and organization of work (f)

- (iii) The Secretariat shall prepare for the Council on the basis of reports submitted by the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system,

issue-oriented consolidated reports on economic, social and related issues it considers under the consolidated agenda items;

By its decision 43/432 the General Assembly endorsed the Council's resolution 1988/77.

20. The Director-General requests members of the Board to note that WHO's obligations relevant to the above paragraphs are set out in Article IV of the Agreement with the United Nations which gave WHO the status of specialized agency.

B. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
AT ITS FORTY-THIRD SESSION<sup>1</sup>

21. Many of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-third session call for action on the part of WHO to ensure that the Organization's technical expertise and policies are duly taken into account in the collective efforts of the United Nations system. The Director-General would draw attention to the following.

Prevention and control of AIDS

22. The full text of United Nations General Assembly resolution 43/15 is annexed to the present report. Attention is drawn, in particular, to operative paragraphs 6 and 9. The Organization is continuing to take appropriate action in response to operative paragraph 6, and the Director-General intends to report on further developments in the global AIDS pandemic to the Economic and Social Council at its July 1989 session.

Mid-term review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990

23. In resolution 43/27 the United Nations General Assembly emphasized that "the African economic crisis is one that concerns the international community as a whole", and that "the accelerated implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 requires further effective action by all parties concerned".

24. In the section of the resolution concerning the assessment of the implementation of the Programme of Action (II.A.4, on "Human resources") the General Assembly noted that "African countries have also adopted measures to promote the effective participation of the population in the development process. In so doing, they have put particular emphasis on the role of African women, not only as beneficiaries but also as agents of development. However, as underlined in the Khartoum Declaration, internal and external constraints may counter the efforts undertaken by Africa to fully develop its human resources, especially in the high-priority fields of health and education".

25. Regarding support by the United Nations system, the General Assembly noted (operative paragraph 74): "At the national level, further efforts to improve coordination within the United Nations system should be taken in the context of the country-programming framework of the United Nations and the role of the resident coordinator. In the programmes of the system, particular emphasis should be placed on the priority sectors for the recovery and development of Africa."

Operational activities for development

26. In resolution 43/199 the United Nations General Assembly again stressed that the primary objective of the operational activities of the United Nations system is to promote the self-reliance of developing countries through multilateral cooperation and, in this context, emphasized the need to maintain its multilateral character.

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<sup>1</sup> Other than those reported in section A above.

27. The Health Assembly may wish to note operative paragraphs 11 and 18 of this resolution, which respectively:

- urges the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system in the field of operational activities, in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity and the existing subregional economic groupings, as appropriate, to provide increased support, as a matter of priority, to African countries in the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the priority themes of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990;

- invites States members of the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system to address the issue of operational activities for development in the governing bodies of those organizations, with a view to arriving at a coordinated and system-wide approach to this issue.

#### International development strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

28. Preparations for the international development strategy are under way. In resolution 43/182 the United Nations General Assembly decided to establish an ad hoc committee of the whole for this purpose, and invited the Committee for Development Planning to continue its activities related to the preparation of the strategy in support of the work and consideration of the ad hoc committee.

29. The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the executive heads of the other organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system are requested "to contribute effectively to the preparatory process for the strategy by providing all appropriate input, including relevant documentation, using comprehensive analytical studies".

#### Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

30. In resolution 43/186 - concerning the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Paris in September 1990 - the United Nations General Assembly expressed deep concern at the continuing deterioration in the overall socioeconomic situation of the least developed countries. It requested "all concerned organs, organizations, and bodies of the United Nations system to submit, before the first preparatory meeting, reports containing a review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries within their fields of competence and proposals for further action as input to the preparations for the Conference".

#### Requests for emergency/special assistance measures to specific countries and the sub-region of Central America

31. The United Nations General Assembly has requested the institutions, bodies and agencies of the United Nations system to collaborate in rendering assistance to a number of Member States:

- resolution 43/7 concerns emergency assistance to Jamaica following hurricane Gilbert (September 1988);

- resolution 43/8 requests the United Nations Secretary-General to coordinate efforts of the United Nations system to help the Sudan in its emergency, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts;

- resolution 43/9 appeals to all Member States, specialized agencies in the field and other organs and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as international economic and financial institutions, to respond urgently and generously in sustaining development assistance to Bangladesh, particularly in its plans and programmes for longer-term rehabilitation and reconstruction;

- resolution 43/17 requests the collaboration of the international financial institutions, organs, organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system in assisting the Governments of Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and other countries affected by hurricane Joan in the mobilization of the additional financial resources necessary for the implementation of the medium- and long-term plans and programmes of rehabilitation and reconstruction;
- resolution 43/19, concerning the situation in Kampuchea, appeals to donor countries, the United Nations and its agencies and other humanitarian organizations to continue to provide emergency assistance to those Kampuchean who are still in need;
- resolution 43/24 urges the international community and international organizations to increase their technical, economic and financial cooperation with the Central American countries for the implementation of the activities supporting the goals and objectives of the special plan of economic cooperation for Central America;
- resolution 43/20 renews an appeal to all states and national and international organizations to continue to extend humanitarian relief assistance to Afghanistan with a view to alleviating the hardship of the refugees, in coordination with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
- resolution 43/26 calls upon the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to render sustained and increased material, financial and other assistance to the South West Africa People's Organization so as to enable it to intensify its struggle for the liberation of Namibia. The resolution also urges all governments and specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations to provide increased material assistance to the thousands of Namibian refugees who have been forced by the oppressive policies of the apartheid régime to flee Namibia, especially into the neighbouring front-line States;
- resolution 43/205 invites States and competent United Nations organizations and programmes to contribute to the rehabilitation and development of Chad and to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance to the people of Chad, who have suffered from the combined effects of war, drought, flooding and invasion of predators;
- resolution 43/206 requests the United Nations Secretary-General, inter alia, to coordinate the efforts of the appropriate organizations of the United Nations system in order to respond in a concerted and effective manner to the request of the Government of Somalia for humanitarian assistance, and to carry out an assessment of priority humanitarian needs;
- resolution 43/207 calls upon the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to intensify their programmes of assistance and to expand them in response to the pressing needs of Lebanon in its reconstruction and development efforts;
- resolution 43/208 invites "the appropriate organizations and programmes of the United Nations system - in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization - to maintain and increase their current and future programmes of assistance to Mozambique";
- resolution 43/209 requests the United Nations Secretary-General, inter alia, to continue mobilizing organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system so that they may respond to requests for assistance from front-line States or the appropriate subregional organization;
- resolution 43/211 urgently appeals to all international organizations, in particular the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, regional organizations, humanitarian organizations and voluntary agencies, to continue and

increase, to the extent possible, their assistance in response to the reconstruction, economic recovery and development needs of Benin, the Central African Republic, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ecuador, Madagascar, and Vanuatu.

#### Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system

32. Cooperation with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system was the subject of five resolutions:

- resolution 43/2 "encourages the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to continue to expand their cooperation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference";
- resolution 43/3 calls upon the specialized agencies and other programmes and organizations of the United Nations system inter alia, to continue to cooperate "in the follow-up of multilateral proposals aimed at strengthening and expanding cooperation in all fields between the United Nations system and League of Arab States and its specialized organizations";
- resolution 43/4 recommends that "a general meeting should be held between representatives of the Organization of American States and of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system, on a date and at a place to be determined, for the purpose of holding consultations on projects, measures and procedures which will facilitate and broaden cooperation between those organizations";
- resolution 43/5 urges the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system "to continue to intensify their cooperation with the activities of the Latin American Economic System";
- resolution 43/12 concerns cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity. Operative paragraph 7 "requests all Member States, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and all other relevant organs of the United Nations, as well as nongovernmental organizations, to activate and increase their programme of assistance to African subregional organizations for drought and desertification control such as the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development". Operative paragraph 10 expresses appreciation to "the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research for the assistance so far rendered to the African States in dealing with the emergency situation as well as with the critical economic problems that exist on the African continent".

#### International years and decades, and international strategies and plans

33. Resolution 43/180 commends the governments, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, for the efforts and resources effectively mobilized for the programme of activities for the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (1987). In the light of those accomplishments a Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 was formulated, and adopted by resolution 43/181.

34. In December 1987 the General Assembly designated the 1990s as an International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (resolution 42/169). Preparations for the Decade were reviewed by the General Assembly at its forty-third session, which adopted resolution 43/202 requesting the United Nations Secretary-General to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system in order to ensure better preparation for the Decade.

35. An international strategy for the fight against locusts and grasshopper infestation, particularly in Africa, was the subject of resolution 43/203. Operative paragraph 10 "requests the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in close cooperation with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, to undertake an assessment of the pesticides and techniques currently used in the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation, in particular the biological fight against the reproduction of larvae, and to test the efficacy of those pesticides and techniques, bearing in mind their effects on the natural environment and the health of the people living in the affected zones".

36. Resolution 43/91, emphasizing the necessity of attaining the objectives of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, "invites all governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations ... to participate fully in the implementation of the plans of activities for the periods 1985-1989 and 1990-1993 by intensifying and broadening their efforts to bring about the speedy elimination of apartheid and all forms of racism and racial discrimination".

37. Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging and related activities was the subject of resolution 43/93, which in its operative paragraph 15 "calls upon the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other funding organizations concerned to continue to support activities relating to the question of aging, in particular by providing assistance for projects that fall within their mandate".

38. Resolution 43/98, concerning the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, "calls upon Member States, national committees, the United Nations system and nongovernmental organizations to assist in a global information and fund-raising campaign to publicize the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons through all appropriate means". In the list of priorities for global activities and programmes during the second half of the Decade (annexed to the resolution) intergovernmental organizations are urged "to give priority to issues concerning disabled persons and to take initiatives to implement the World Programme of Action".

39. Resolution 43/101, on the Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, "calls upon the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to establish five-year targets at each level for the percentage of women in professional and decision-making positions, in accordance with the criteria established by the General Assembly". It also requests the relevant United Nations bodies to continue to provide focus and action-oriented input when reporting to the Commission on the Status of Women on the priority themes under the Forward-looking Strategies.

#### Narcotic drugs and drug abuse

40. The preparation of a draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances was the subject of resolution 43/120, which urges all States to adopt a constructive approach with a view to resolving any outstanding differences over the text of the convention, and urges those which have not yet done so "to ratify or to accede to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971".

41. Resolution 43/121, concerning the use of children in the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and rehabilitation of drug-addicted minors, "urges all Governments, international organizations concerned and nongovernmental organizations to give high priority, in their campaigns to prevent drug addiction among children and to rehabilitate children so addicted, to the dissemination of necessary information and the provision of appropriate advice for all sectors of their communities with regard to the serious effects of the illicit use of drugs among children, as well as to the promotion of appropriate community

action". It also calls upon the competent international agencies and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control "to assign high priority to financial support for prevention campaigns and programmes to rehabilitate drug-addicted minors conducted by government bodies dealing with such matters, and further calls upon all competent international and national agencies to provide all possible support to the nongovernmental organizations engaged in such activities".

42. Regarding the international campaign against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, resolution 43/122 "calls upon the Governments of countries facing problems of drug abuse, particularly those most seriously affected, as part of their national strategies, to take the necessary measures to reduce significantly the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances with the aim of creating societies that deeply respect health, fitness and well-being, and to provide appropriate information and advice for all sectors of their communities with a view to promoting community responses to this problem".

#### Question of youth

43. Resolution 43/94 calls upon:

- "all States, United Nations bodies, ... the specialized agencies and the intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations concerned, in particular youth organizations, to continue to exert all possible efforts for the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth, in accordance with their experience, conditions and priorities";
- "Member States, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other governmental and intergovernmental organizations to implement fully the guidelines relating to the channels of communication adopted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 32/135 and 36/17";
- "all States, all governmental and nongovernmental organizations, interested United Nations bodies ... and specialized agencies to continue to give priority to the formulation and implementation of effective measures for securing the exercise by youth of the right to education and to work".

#### Toxic and dangerous products and wastes affecting the developing countries in particular

44. Resolution 43/212, concerning the responsibility of States for the protection of the environment, "calls upon the international community, in particular the developed countries to strengthen its scientific and technical cooperation with the developing countries and to provide appropriate assistance to them in their efforts to eliminate the adverse consequences of toxic and dangerous products and wastes for human health and the environment".

#### Scientific and technological developments

45. Resolution 43/110, stressing the importance of the implementation by all States of the provisions and principles contained in the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind, adopted in 1975, "requests the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take into account in their programmes and activities the provisions of the Declaration".

46. Resolution 43/111 - concerning human rights and scientific and technological developments: the right to life - "calls upon all States, appropriate United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations concerned to take the necessary measures to ensure that the results of scientific and technological progress, the material and intellectual potential of mankind, are used for the benefit of mankind and for promoting and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms".

C. OTHER MATTERS

United Nations Commission on Human Rights

47. At its forty-fifth session (29 January to 10 March 1989) the United Nations Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution on non-discrimination in the field of health.

48. The resolution recalls the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights, and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as resolutions WHA23.41, WHA30.43, WHA33.24, WHA35.23 and WHA41.24 of the World Health Assembly.

49. It refers to equal treatment of all persons before the law, and expresses deep concern about discriminatory practices incompatible with medical ethics and human rights. It further expresses the conviction that the development of international cooperation and information in the field of health could reduce such discrimination in health matters, reaffirms the right of all persons to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and recalls that all human rights should apply to all patients, without discrimination.

50. The resolution recognizes the importance of the principle of non-discrimination concerning access to health care, and encourages WHO to continue its action in that respect. It invites the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to examine the possibility of extending the scope of its study on discrimination against persons with the HIV virus or suffering from AIDS, in order to cover other forms of discrimination against sick or disabled persons, in consultation with WHO.

International cooperation regarding food irradiation

51. In view of the increasing interest of national authorities and food industries in the practical application of food irradiation and the wider acceptance of irradiation as a technology for prolonging the shelf-life of selected foods and reducing the incidence of foodborne disease, FAO, IAEA, WHO and the International Trade Centre jointly convened an International Conference on the Acceptance, Control of, and Trade in Irradiated Food (Geneva, 12-16 December 1988). The participants - some 250 - included official delegations from 54 countries (government officials at the senior policy level, experts in law, health, energy and food), and representatives of 12 international nongovernmental organizations. The resulting document, endorsed by the co-sponsoring organizations, has been sent to all Member States.

ANNEX

**UNITED  
NATIONS**

**A**



## General Assembly

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GENERAL

A/RES/43/15  
9 January 1989

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Forty-third session  
Agenda item 12

### RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/43/750/Add.1)]

43/15. Prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned that acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) has assumed pandemic proportions affecting all regions of the world and represents a threat to the attainment of health for all,

Recalling its resolution 42/8 of 26 October 1987, Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/55 of 27 July 1988, World Health Assembly resolution WHA41.24 of 13 May 1988 1/ and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the London Declaration on AIDS Prevention, adopted by the World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS Prevention on 28 January 1988, 2/

Noting with satisfaction the development and implementation of the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS prepared by the World Health Organization, including the establishment of appropriate inter-agency mechanisms, and noting with appreciation the efforts of the World Health Organization, other United Nations agencies and funds, and national Governments,

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1/ See World Health Organization, Forty-first World Health Assembly, Geneva, 2-13 May 1988, Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes (WHA 41/1988/REC/1).

2/ A/43/341-E/1988/80, annex, appendix I.

Recognizing the urgent need to pursue multilateral efforts to promote and improve human health, control disease and extend health care in order to accomplish the objective of health for all by the year 2000,

1. Reaffirms the established leadership and the essential role of the World Health Organization in the global direction and co-ordination of AIDS prevention, control, research and education, commends those Governments which have initiated action to establish national programmes for the prevention and control of AIDS in line with the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS prepared by the World Health Organization, and urges other Governments to take similar action;

2. Takes note of the World Health Organization Global Programme on AIDS, and stresses the continued need for adequate resources for its implementation and the corresponding need to continue to share the pool of world-wide medical and scientific knowledge and experience in the control and prevention of the disease;

3. Notes that the World Health Organization has declared 1 December 1988 World AIDS Day, and stresses the importance of the appropriate observance of that occasion;

4. Affirms that the struggle against AIDS should be consistent with and not divert attention from other national public health priorities and development goals or divert international efforts and resources needed for overall health priorities;

5. Calls upon all States, in addressing the AIDS problem, to take into account the legitimate concerns of other countries and the interests of inter-State relations;

6. Invites the World Health Organization to continue to facilitate the exchange of information on and promotion of national and international research for the prevention and control of AIDS through the further development of Collaborating Centres of the World Health Organization and similar existing mechanisms;

7. Requests the Secretary-General, in view of all the aspects of the problem, in particular the socio-economic and humanitarian aspects, to continue to ensure, in close co-operation with the Director-General of the World Health Organization and through the appropriate existing mechanisms, a co-ordinated response by the United Nations system to the AIDS pandemic;

8. Urges all appropriate organizations of the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies, bilateral and multilateral agencies and non-governmental and voluntary organizations, in conformity with the global strategy, to continue to support the world-wide struggle against AIDS;

9. Invites the Director-General of the World Health Organization to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on further developments in the global AIDS pandemic, and requests the Economic and Social Council to consider the report in accordance with its mandate.

38th plenary meeting  
27 October 1988

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