The Forty-second World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolution WHA39.21;

Deploring the adverse effects of dracunculiasis (guinea worm disease) on health and its constraining influence on agriculture, education and the quality of life in affected areas of Africa and Asia, where over 100 million persons remain at risk of infection;

Noting the resolution on the eradication of dracunculiasis adopted by the Regional Committee for Africa in September 1988 (AFR/RC38/R13);

Recognizing the need to sustain the efforts to combat dracunculiasis initiated during the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990);

Encouraged by the progress achieved to date, as described in reports submitted by the Director-General to the Forty-first World Health Assembly and the eighty-third session of the Executive Board;

1. DECLARES the goal of eliminating this disease as a public health problem from the world in the 1990s;

2. ENDORSES a combined strategy of provision of safe water, active surveillance, health education, community mobilization, vector control and personal prophylaxis, for eliminating the infection;

3. CALLS ON all affected Member States:
   (1) to intensify national surveillance of dracunculiasis, and assess the extent of the disease if they have not yet done so;
   (2) to establish as soon as possible, within the context of primary health care, plans of action for eliminating dracunculiasis in the 1990s;
   (3) to give high priority to affected areas in the provision of safe drinking-water;

4. INVITES bilateral and international development agencies, private voluntary organizations, foundations and appropriate regional organizations to continue to support countries' efforts to eliminate dracunculiasis and to ensure that funds are available to accelerate and sustain these efforts;
5. URGES the Director-General:

(1) to assist Member States in intensifying surveillance of the prevalence and incidence of dracunculiasis;

(2) to stimulate international technical cooperation and coordination;

(3) to take the necessary steps for defining appropriate criteria for the certification of elimination;

(4) to seek extrabudgetary funds to support these activities;

(5) to submit a report on the status of these activities to the Forty-fourth World Health Assembly.