FORTY-FOURTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

Agenda item 17.2

ERADICATION OF DRACUNCULIASIS

The Forty-fourth World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions WHA39.21 and WHA42.29;

Having considered the report of the Director-General on the eradication of dracunculiasis;

Encouraged by the considerable progress achieved in many countries towards elimination of the disease;

Aware that country-by-country elimination of dracunculiasis is considered to be the last step before global eradication can be declared;

Recognizing the support to national control activities provided by the international community;

Deploring, none the less, the continuing adverse effects of dracunculiasis on health, including that of mothers and children, as well as its constraining effects on agriculture, sustainable development and education in endemic areas of Africa and Asia, where over 100 million persons remain at risk of infection;

Aware that in the face of such problems a number of countries have set national goals aimed at ensuring that by the end of 1995 they have no more indigenous cases;

1. EXPRESSES its satisfaction with the progress made by affected Member States in eliminating dracunculiasis;

2. DECLARES its commitment to the goal of eradicating dracunculiasis by the end of 1995, this being technically feasible given appropriate political, social and economic support;

3. ENDORSES a combined strategy of provision of safe water, active surveillance, health education, community mobilization, vector control, and personal prophylaxis;

4. CALLS ON all Member States still affected by dracunculiasis to determine the full extent of the disease and elaborate regional plans of action; establish intersectoral steering committees; initiate certification of elimination; coordinate the contributions of the international community, including multilateral and bilateral agencies and nongovernmental organizations; and explore possibilities for mobilizing additional resources to eradicate the infection within the context of primary health care;

5. INVITES donors, including bilateral and international development agencies, nongovernmental organizations, foundations and appropriate regional organizations, to continue to support countries' efforts to eradicate dracunculiasis by helping to ensure that funds are available to accelerate and sustain them;
6. URGES the Director-General:

(1) to immediately initiate country-by-country certification of elimination so that the certification process can be completed by the end of the 1990s;

(2) to support global efforts to eradicate dracunculiasis during the 1990s particularly by the certification by WHO of the elimination of the disease country by country;

(3) to support Member States in surveillance, programme development and implementation;

(4) to continue to seek extrabudgetary resources for this purpose;

(5) to keep the Executive Board and the Health Assembly informed of progress.

Eleventh plenary meeting, 13 May 1991
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