

FORTY-FOURTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

WHA44.9

Agenda item 17.2

13 May 1991

## LEPROSY

The Forty-fourth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Director-General on leprosy;

Recalling resolution WHA40.35 and previous resolutions of the Health Assembly and the Executive Board on leprosy;

Noting with satisfaction the significant progress made during the past five years with multidrug therapy for leprosy control and with case-finding in the majority of Member States where leprosy is endemic - progress which has led to reductions in disease prevalence;

Recognizing the substantial and increasing support for leprosy control being provided by nongovernmental and other donor organizations;

Aware of the increasingly high priority accorded by several Member States to the elimination of leprosy as a public health problem;

Further aware of the opportunities to reduce disabilities due to leprosy through early case-detection, multidrug therapy and increased emphasis on managerial capabilities within leprosy control programmes and on disability prevention;

1. DECLARES WHO's commitment to continuing to promote the use of all control measures including multidrug therapy together with case-finding in order to attain the global elimination<sup>1</sup> of leprosy as a public health problem by the year 2000;
2. URGES Member States in which leprosy is endemic:
  - (1) to further increase or maintain their political commitment and give high priority to leprosy control so that the global elimination of leprosy as a public health problem is achieved by the year 2000;
  - (2) to strengthen managerial capabilities within leprosy programmes, particularly at the intermediate level, and to improve training in leprosy for health workers at all levels, including medical students and student nurses;
  - (3) to ensure that coverage of multidrug therapy is maintained at the highest level possible and that patients comply with treatment;
  - (4) to strengthen case-finding activities through various approaches, including health education, community participation and training of health workers;

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<sup>1</sup> Elimination of leprosy as a public health problem is defined as the reduction of prevalence to a level below one case per 10 000 population.

- (5) to integrate leprosy control within general health services and provide appropriate social and economic rehabilitation measures as soon as possible in accordance with local realities;
- (6) to improve national information systems in order to facilitate monitoring and evaluation of the elimination of leprosy;
- (7) to coordinate the technical and financial resources made available for leprosy control by international and nongovernmental organizations so that they are utilized in the best way;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to strengthen technical support to Member States for the implementation of multidrug therapy together with case-finding so as to achieve the global elimination of leprosy as a public health problem by the year 2000;
- (2) to continue to mobilize and coordinate scientific, technical and additional financial resources for implementing multidrug therapy together with case-finding, disability prevention and social and economic rehabilitation;
- (3) to continue to strengthen national capabilities for leprosy control through support for training activities;
- (4) to continue to support research for the development of improved drugs, diagnostic tools and vaccines through the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases;
- (5) to promote further coordination with Member States and nongovernmental organizations in order to achieve the global elimination of leprosy as a public health problem by the year 2000;
- (6) to keep the Executive Board and the Health Assembly informed of the progress made.

Eleventh plenary meeting, 13 May 1991  
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