



**World Health Organization
Organisation mondiale de la Santé**

FORTY-SEVENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

**(Draft) A47/49
10 May 1994**

Second report of Committee A

(Draft)

Committee A held its sixth and seventh meetings on 9 May 1994 under the chairmanship of Dr N.K. Rai (Indonesia).

It was decided to recommend to the Forty-seventh World Health Assembly the adoption of the attached resolutions relating to the following agenda item:

19. Implementation of resolutions

Five resolutions entitled:

Maternal and child health and family planning: quality of care

Maternal and child health and family planning: traditional practices harmful to the health of women and children

Implementation of WHO's revised drug strategy: Revision and amendment of WHO's Good Manufacturing Practices for Pharmaceutical Products

Role of the pharmacist in support of the WHO revised drug strategy

Implementation of WHO's revised drug strategy: Rational use of drugs; and WHO's Action Programme on Essential Drugs

Agenda item 19

**Maternal and child health and family
planning: quality of care**

The Forty-seventh World Health Assembly,

Noting the report by the Director-General on maternal and child health and family planning: current needs and future orientation;

Recalling resolutions WHA32.42 on maternal and child health, including family planning; WHA32.30 on primary health care and monitoring health for all; and WHA46.18 on maternal and child health and family planning for health, and WHA45.5 on strengthening nursing and midwifery services;

Noting that the Organization has successfully developed and adapted a number of management and evaluation methods that involve the participation of all levels of the health system and community, that can be rapidly applied to a wide range of service delivery problems, and that may provide guidance on action needed to improve the functioning and performance of maternal and child health and family planning services;

Noting also that several divisions and programmes within WHO are engaged in these fields and that there is a need for a comprehensive, unifying strategy for action and research in the broad area of reproductive health;

Recognizing that enormous progress has been made in many aspects of maternal and child health, as evidenced by the great increase in immunization coverage, accessibility and use of family planning services and numbers of trained attendants at childbirth;

Concerned nonetheless that in many countries such increases in coverage are not having the expected effect because of poor quality of care and performance of health systems;

Emphasizing that rapid progress in the health of mothers and the newborn and in family planning can be assured by improving the quality of care and the performance of the existing services and staff;

Recognizing that a number of different international, national and nongovernmental organizations are providing technical and financial support at country level,

1. **URGES** all Member States:

- (1) to give priority to assessing and improving the quality of care for women and children in district-based health systems, as part of a global approach to family health;
- (2) to adapt and apply standard protocols for the diagnosis and clinical management of the common problems encountered in services for the health of mothers, infants and children;
- (3) to strengthen health centres so as to ensure a high level of nursing and midwifery care, and to provide regular supervisory, managerial and logistic support to peripheral health posts, community health workers and trained traditional birth attendants applying local strategies for the health of mothers and the newborn;

(4) to give priority to assessing and improving the quality of basic and continuing nursing and midwifery education;

(5) to reorient training curricula to community-based and problem-solving approaches, and to ensure that health workers are made aware of the attitudes and needs of women and other members of the community within a context of coherent implementation of population policies;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to continue to provide technical support and guidance to Member States in the further development, adaptation and application of indicators of quality of care in maternal and child health and family planning and other aspects of primary health care;

(2) to continue to prepare guidelines and training material and devise approaches that improve the quality of care through standardized case definition, diagnosis and case management for the major health problems affecting mothers, the newborn, infants and children, and providing the necessary supervisory support, including monitoring and evaluation;

(3) to ensure that the components of maternal and child health care and family planning are promoted and provided to Member States in a coherent and integrated manner, and that they correspond to national priorities and demand;

(4) to seek to improve in-country coordination mechanisms, where appropriate, between all concerned agencies and organizations, to support national leadership and to make optimal use of available human and material resources;

(5) to report to the Executive Board and to the Health Assembly in 1995 on ongoing activities to develop a comprehensive strategy for research and action in the broad field of sexual and reproductive health.

Agenda item 19

**Maternal and child health and family planning:
traditional practices harmful to the health of women
and children**

The Forty-seventh World Health Assembly,

Noting the report by the Director-General on maternal and child health and family planning: current needs and future orientation;

Recalling resolutions WHA32.42 on maternal and child health, including family planning; WHA38.22 on maturity before childbearing and promotion of responsible parenthood; and WHA46.18 on maternal and child health and family planning for health;

Reaffirming its support for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and United Nations Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/251 on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children;

Recognizing that, although some traditional practices may be beneficial or harmless, others, particularly those relating to female genital mutilation and early sexual relations and reproduction, cause serious problems in pregnancy and childbirth and have a profound effect on the health and development of children, including child care and feeding, creating risks of rickets and anaemia;

Acknowledging the important role that nongovernmental organizations have played in bringing these matters to the attention of their social, political and religious leaders, and in establishing programmes for the abolition of many of these practices, particularly female genital mutilation,

1. WELCOMES the initiative taken by the Director-General in drawing international attention to these matters in relation to health and human rights in the context of a comprehensive approach to women's health in all countries, and the policy declarations to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on traditional practices by governments in countries where female genital mutilation is practised;

2. URGES all Member States:

(1) to assess the extent to which harmful traditional practices affecting the health of women and children constitute a social and public health problem in any local community or sub-group;

(2) to establish national policies and programmes that will effectively, and with legal instruments, abolish female genital mutilation, childbearing before biological and social maturity, and other harmful practices affecting the health of women and children;

(3) to collaborate with national nongovernmental groups active in this field, draw upon their experience and expertise and, where such groups do not exist, encourage their establishment;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to strengthen WHO's technical support to and cooperation with Member States in implementing the measures specified above;

- (2) to continue global and regional collaboration with the networks of nongovernmental organizations, United Nations bodies, and other agencies and organizations concerned in order to establish national, regional and global strategies for the abolition of harmful traditional practices;
- (3) to mobilize additional extrabudgetary resources in order to sustain the action at national, regional and global levels.

Agenda item 19

**Implementation of WHO's revised drug strategy:
Revision and amendment of WHO's Good Manufacturing
Practices for Pharmaceutical Products**

The Forty-seventh World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions WHA20.34, WHA22.50 and WHA28.65;

Recognizing the importance for the purpose of facilitating international trade in pharmaceutical products of the WHO Certification Scheme on the Quality of Pharmaceutical Products Moving in International Commerce;

Noting that the implementation of the WHO Certification Scheme is dependent on promulgation of "Good Manufacturing Practices for Pharmaceutical Products" that meet contemporary requirements;

Aware that pharmaceutical technology is currently passing through a phase of rapid development which it is anticipated will continue over many years, and that frequent amendments to Good Manufacturing Practices are likely to be proposed in future expert committee reports as a consequence of regular consultations with national drug regulatory authorities and discussions within the biennial International Conferences of Drug Regulatory Authorities,

1. APPROVES the revision of the Good Manufacturing Practices for Pharmaceutical Products as contained in the thirty-second and thirty-third reports of the WHO Expert Committee on Specifications for Pharmaceutical Preparations;
2. AUTHORIZES the Executive Board, as the executive organ of the Health Assembly, to approve such technical amendments to the Good Manufacturing Practices for Pharmaceutical Products as may be proposed in subsequent reports of meetings of the Expert Committee, and to keep the Health Assembly informed.

Agenda item 19

**Role of the pharmacist in support of
the WHO revised drug strategy**

The Forty-seventh World Health Assembly,

Noting the preliminary report by the Director-General on implementation of WHO's revised drug strategy;

Recalling resolutions WHA37.33, WHA39.27 and WHA41.16 on the rational use of drugs;

Noting in particular the need to encourage the fulfilment by all concerned parties, including health personnel involved in prescription, dispensing, supply and distribution of medicines, of their responsibilities with respect to rational use of drugs as specified in WHO's revised drug strategy;

Recognizing the economic benefits and the therapeutic advantage of advocating and reinforcing the rational use of drugs;

Recognizing that the pharmacist can play a key role in public health and particularly in the field of medicines, and that the rational use of drugs is contingent upon the availability to the whole population at all times of essential drugs of good quality at affordable prices;

Emphasizing the need for the utmost vigilance to ensure the detection and prevention of the manufacture, export or smuggling of falsely-labelled, spurious, counterfeit or substandard pharmaceutical preparations;

Concerned about the continued poor state of development of pharmaceutical services in many countries as emphasized in WHO meetings on the role of the pharmacist held in New Delhi in 1988 and Tokyo in 1993;

Appreciating the contribution made by organizations representing pharmacists, in collaboration with WHO, in pursuit of the goal of health for all;

Stressing the importance of collaboration between pharmacists and all other health professionals involved in patient care and the safe and effective administration of medicines,

1. CALLS UPON pharmacists and their professional associations everywhere, through their contributions to regulatory control, pharmaceutical manufacture and community service, to support WHO's policies as embodied in WHO's revised drug strategy and develop the profession at all levels in accordance with the reports of the above-mentioned meetings, and, in particular:

(1) to provide the oversight necessary to assure the quality of pharmaceutical products and services at the time of manufacture, importation or exportation and at all stages of the distribution chain;

(2) to manage drug procurement and supply systems and in so doing, to cooperate in efforts to detect and prevent the distribution of falsely labelled, spurious, counterfeit or substandard pharmaceutical preparations;

(3) to provide informed and objective advice on medicines and their use to the public, and provide technical advice to other health professionals, to drug regulatory bodies, health planners and policy-makers;

(4) to promote, in collaboration with other health professionals, the concept of pharmaceutical care as a means of furthering the rational use of drugs and of actively participating in illness prevention and health promotion;

(5) to support relevant research and training programmes;

2. URGES all Member States, in collaboration with national organizations representing pharmacists, where such exist:

(1) to define the role of the pharmacist in the promotion and implementation of the national drug policy within the framework of health-for-all strategy;

(2) to make full use of the expertise of the pharmacist at all levels of the health care system and particularly in the development of national drug policies;

(3) to provide training facilities to equip pharmacists to assume responsibilities for all activities cited in 1(1) to 1(4) above;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to support Member States in their efforts to develop drug regulatory and pharmaceutical services;

(2) to encourage Member States to assess their needs for pharmaceutical services and manpower, and for relevant training facilities;

(3) to encourage regular publication of the *World Directory of Schools of Pharmacy*;

(4) to report on progress made to the Executive Board at its ninety-seventh session in January 1996.

Agenda item 19

**Implementation of WHO's revised drug strategy:
Rational use of drugs; and
WHO's Action Programme on Essential Drugs**

The Forty-seventh World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Director-General on the implementation of WHO's revised drug strategy;

Recalling resolutions WHA39.27 and WHA41.16 on the rational use of drugs, and resolutions WHA43.20 and WHA45.27 on the Action Programme on Essential Drugs;

Noting the activities of WHO in pursuance of the revised drug strategy and its intensified direct collaboration and support to countries in drug policy formulation, standard setting, regulation, procurement and use as well as the related logistics, financing, information, operational research, human resources, education and training capacity building and institution strengthening;

Recognizing the efforts of WHO in collaboration with governments and other bodies to improve access to essential drugs and the rational use of drugs, within the framework of national drug policies;

Aware of the role of the community in the rational use of drugs;

Recognizing also the need for continued action by all interested parties to achieve all the objectives of a comprehensive national drug policy;

Appreciating that the Action Programme on Essential Drugs will be subject to a detailed review by the Executive Board at its ninety-fifth session in 1995, with a view to optimizing the collaboration between all technical programmes in this field;

Emphasizing the need for an adequate response to new economic challenges and the changing balance of the public and private sectors in health care, including the provision of drugs, and assessment of the viability and long-term effects of new financing strategies and other measures;

Mindful of problems with counterfeit drugs and drugs of poor quality,

1. REAFFIRMS the crucial importance of WHO's leadership and coordination, through its Action Programme on Essential Drugs, in the development, support and evaluation of national drug policies within the framework of national health policies;

2. URGES Member States:

(1) to commit themselves to the development and implementation of national drug policies to improve equitable access to essential drugs of good quality at affordable cost, and to intensify efforts to promote the rational use of drugs;

(2) to accelerate the education and training of the necessary human resources, and to strengthen the implementation of drug policies and programmes;

- (3) to evaluate progress regularly using performance indicators developed by the Action Programme on Essential Drugs or other suitable mechanisms;
3. CALLS ON bilateral and multilateral agencies, nongovernmental organizations and other collaborators to strengthen their technical and financial support to the Action Programme;
4. REQUESTS the Director-General:
 - (1) further to strengthen the leadership and advocacy by the Action Programme in mobilizing and coordinating a global collaborative effort to improve access to essential drugs and ensure the rational use of drugs;
 - (2) to encourage contacts with bilateral and multilateral aid agencies, with organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, bilateral and multilateral agencies, with consumers, industry, nongovernmental organizations and other collaborators;
 - (3) to ensure that the concept of the revised drug strategy is fully reflected in WHO's work towards reform in the health sector;
 - (4) to ensure that adequate financial and human resources are provided under the regular budget and from extrabudgetary sources, as necessary, to implement the programme, and to meet increased demands from Member States;
 - (5) to assist Member States in their efforts to ensure that available drugs are of good quality, and in combating the use of counterfeit drugs;
 - (6) to report on the current state and the progress made in the drug sector throughout the world by publishing periodically up-to-date information on the world drug situation;
 - (7) to report to the Forty-ninth World Health Assembly, and subsequently biennially, on progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of WHO's revised drug strategy, with recommendations for action.

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