



FORTY-EIGHTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

WHA48.7

Agenda item 18.2

12 May 1995

Revision and updating of the International Health Regulations

The Forty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Recalling the adoption of the International Health Regulations by the Twenty-second World Health Assembly in 1969, their amendment by the Twenty-sixth World Health Assembly in 1973 with provisions for cholera, and their further revision by the Thirty-fourth World Health Assembly in 1981 to exclude smallpox in view of its global eradication;

Aware that plague, cholera and yellow fever are designated as diseases subject to the Regulations;

Recognizing that the purpose of the Regulations is to ensure the maximum possible protection against infection with minimum interference in international traffic;

Recognizing further that the Regulations seek to ensure such protection by preventing infection from spreading from countries where it exists or by containing it upon arrival;

Noting that there is a continuous evolution in the public health threat posed by infectious diseases related to the agents themselves, the facilitation of their transmission in changing physical and social environments and to diagnostic and treatment capacities;

Noting that regulations should be based on sound epidemiological and public health expertise;

Concerned about the threat posed by the considerable increases in international travel, especially commercial air transport, which may serve to disseminate infectious diseases rapidly;

Fully aware that the strengthening of epidemiological surveillance and disease control activities at national level is the main defence against the international spread of communicable diseases,

1. URGES Member States to participate in revision of the International Health Regulations, contributing national expertise, experience and suggestions;
2. URGES other specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, nongovernmental organizations and other groups concerned to cooperate in revision of the International Health Regulations;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to take steps to prepare a revision of the International Health Regulations and to submit it to the Health Assembly in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution.

Twelfth plenary meeting, 12 May 1995
A48/VR/12

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