New, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases: special programme on malaria

The Forty-ninth World Health Assembly,

Noting with concern that the global malaria situation is serious and that malaria remains a major global priority, essential for the achievement of health for all, with an annual incidence of between 300 and 500 million clinical cases, African countries south of the Sahara accounting for more than 90% of the global burden;

Alarmed by the death toll from malaria of about one million in children below the age of five years and by the extension and intensification of resistance to many antimalarials;

Deeply concerned at the recent occurrence of extensive malaria epidemics, particularly in Africa, due to civil disorders, or major ecological changes and movements of refugees and displaced populations;

Noting with regret that WHO response is inadequate to deal with the explosive situation while acknowledging the intensive efforts undertaken by the technical staff of the Organization in spite of the limited resources available for the purpose;

Recalling resolutions WHA38.24, WHA42.30, and WHA46.32 as well as resolutions 1994/34 and 1995/63 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, which called for increased resources for preventive action and intensification of the struggle against malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa, and urged WHO, as the lead agency in international health, to continue to provide in collaboration with the United Nations agencies and programmes concerned the technical expertise and support to the agreed malaria control strategies and workplans;

Recognizing that any further delay in intensifying the struggle against malaria will cost millions more lives and put the Organization in an untenable situation as the leader of international health work in disease control,

1. URGES Member States to take action to participate fully in a reestablished action programme on malaria concentrating on ways and means of preventing and controlling the disease, including the research and training activities needed to accomplish these goals, and recommends that malaria control should be developed as an integral part of primary health care in the national systems;

2. URGES regional committees to ensure that the programme is vigorously pursued in their region and that to this end regional and subregional plans of action are prepared and adequate resources allocated to the programme and subsequently in the regional programme budgets;
3. REQUESTS the Director-General to explore the possibility of establishing a special programme on malaria;

4. FURTHER REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to intensify his efforts to increase the extrabudgetary resources for the special account on malaria on the basis of a plan of action for intensification of the programme and to submit a report to the ninety-ninth session of the Executive Board on the progress made, including the commitment of additional resources;

(2) to reinforce the malaria training programme at the country, regional and global levels.

Sixth plenary meeting, 25 May 1996
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