

**WHA24.32**      **Health assistance to refugees and displaced persons in the Middle East**

The Twenty-fourth World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolution WHA23.52 on health assistance to refugees and displaced persons, operative paragraph 5(*b*) of which requested the Director-General to take all effective measures to safeguard health conditions amongst refugees and the displaced persons in the Middle East;

Noting United Nations General Assembly resolution 2656 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, which *inter alia* established a Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;

Noting further United Nations General Assembly resolution 2728 (XXV) of 15 December 1970 by which the Assembly approved the first report of the Working Group and endorsed the Working Group's recommendations, thereby, *inter alia*, urging all organizations of the United Nations system to study ways by which they might assist or undertake activities helpful to the refugees;

Considering Economic and Social Council resolution 1565 (L) of 6 May 1971, welcoming, *inter alia*, the contacts initiated with the World Health Organization with a view to obtaining services to the maximum extent possible, and requesting the executive heads of specialized agencies to continue to consider appropriate ways and means of rendering all possible assistance to the Palestine refugees;

Noting with appreciation the report of the Director-General and the comments he has supplied on the means of financing outside the regular budget which might be used;

Recognizing the acute financial situation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East which endangers the minimum services provided to the Palestine refugees;

Mindful of the principle that the health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security; and

Realizing that more material and human aid is urgently needed to alleviate the sufferings of the refugees in the Middle East, in particular in the field of health,

1. REQUESTS the Director-General of the World Health Organization to intensify and expand its programme of health assistance to the refugees and displaced persons in the Middle East to the amount of at least one million dollars; and
2. DECIDES that, meanwhile, emergency assistance to the maximum extent possible be given to the refugees and the displaced persons in the Middle East.