

WHA27.59 Prevention of road traffic accidents

The Twenty-seventh World Health Assembly,

Noting with great concern the extensive and serious individual and public health problems resulting from road traffic accidents;

Recognizing that the use of alcohol and other psychoactive drugs contributes significantly to the heavy toll taken by road traffic accidents;

Believing that effective solutions require the coordinated efforts of international organizations and agencies, the Member States, regional and local authorities, and the world citizenry;

Declaring that the World Health Organization has a responsibility to provide leadership, guidance and technical assistance to Member States in the fields of improving road traffic safety in so far as human and medical factors are involved; and

Recalling resolution WHA19.36,

1. URGES Member States:

- (1) to promote improved driver-licensing standards and traffic safety education programmes;
 - (2) to encourage the national health authorities to provide leadership in these matters in so far as human and medical factors are involved; and
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- (3) to require the manufacturers to apply safety principles in the development of new types of vehicles;
2. RECOMMENDS that the World Health Organization should encourage and assist the development of improved programmes in the field of traffic safety; and
3. REQUESTS the Director-General:
 - (1) to study, in consultation with other intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, means:
 - (a) of developing appropriate standards relating to the medical aspect of the licensing of drivers; (b) of developing increasingly effective educational and other programmes designed to encourage responsible use of vehicles and roads; and (c) of promoting and coordinating further research required on human and medical factors involved in traffic accidents;
 - (2) to convene as soon as possible a group of experts to study the influence of alcohol and psychotropic drugs and their interaction on driver skills and traffic accidents; and
 - (3) to report to the Executive Board and to the Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly on developments on these matters.