

WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATIONORGANISATION MONDIALE  
DE LA SANTÉSECOND WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLYA2/21 ✓  
27 April 1949

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

✓ PROPOSED CHANGE IN DATE FOR "WORLD HEALTH DAY"  
(Provisional Agenda item 8.22)

The First World Health Assembly, in a resolution adopted on 21 July 1948, decided that the Organization should sponsor the celebration of "World Health Day" on 22 July each year, the day when the charter of the World Health Organization was signed by sixty-one nations in New York in 1946. In accordance with the terms of this resolution certain arrangements were undertaken for the observance of World Health Day during the current year on 22 July.

It has been pointed out, however, that this date involves a significant disadvantage to which the attention of the Second Health Assembly should be directed. From the long-term aspect one of the most important population groups in any country with regard to the observance of this day is represented by children and young adults, and perhaps the most effective means of reaching this group is through the schools. However, in a large number of countries school children are on vacation during July and are thus inaccessible.

The date of 7 April, the day when the Constitution of WHO officially came into force in 1948, would seem under these circumstances to provide an alternative which might obviate this disadvantage. Most schools would then be in session and could thus act as important focal points for the observance of "World Health Day".

The Second Health Assembly may therefore wish to adopt the following resolution:

Whereas it was decided by the First Health Assembly that the Organization should sponsor the observance of 'World Health Day' on 22 July each year by all States Members;

Whereas in every country the schools and other educational institutions could and should act as important focal points for the observance of this day;

Whereas most schools in many countries are closed on 22 July and therefore cannot serve in such manner;

Whereas the date of 7 April, the day when the Constitution of WHO officially entered into force in 1948, provides a suitable alternative without such disadvantages;

The Second World Health Assembly

RESOLVES that beginning in 1950 and each year thereafter 'World Health Day' should appropriately be observed on 7 April by all States Members.