

WPR/RC37.R15 BLOOD AND BLOOD PRODUCTS

The Regional Committee,

Having considered the report of the Regional Director on blood and blood products;¹

Recalling resolution WHA28.72 on blood and blood products;

Recognizing the shortage of technical staff, supplies and equipment in a number of countries in the field of blood transfusion;

Aware of the increasing demand for blood and blood products in the Region, including the collection of human plasma by plasmapheresis;

Expressing concern that blood and blood products may constitute a risk for the transmission of certain diseases;

Noting that greater attention should be given by Member States to the application of the principles and rules of the Code of Ethics for Blood Donation and Transfusion;²

Drawing the attention of Member States to the recommendations made by the WHO meeting on the safety of blood and blood products, held in Geneva in April 1986;³

Acknowledging with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of resolutions WPR/RC35.R14 on hepatitis and WPR/RC36.R2 on acquired immunodeficiency syndrome;

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to make every effort to develop and improve their blood transfusion services at all levels as a governmental responsibility;

(2) to take measures to protect the health of blood donors and recipients using suitable methods;

(3) to intensify efforts to improve manufacturing practices for blood and blood products, with particular reference to the Requirements for the collection, processing and quality control of human blood and blood products, as formulated by the WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization in 1978 as an annex to its report;¹

(4) to observe the ethical principles pertaining to blood donation and transfusion;

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director to provide technical support to Member States in their efforts to improve the national blood transfusion services, with special emphasis on:

- the introduction of screening of blood donors and donated blood;
- the establishment of a quality assurance programme for blood transfusion and blood products in the Region.

¹Document WPR/RC37/13 Rev.1.

²Document EB71/INF. DOC./1, Annex 1.

³Weekly epidemiological record, 61(18): 139-140 (1986).

NOTE: For the full text of the documents referred to under footnotes 2 and 3, see Part II, Summary record of the ninth meeting, Annexes 1 and 2, pages 193-197.

¹WHO Technical Report Series, No. 626, 1978, Annex 1.