

WPR/RC36.R23 HEALTH OF THE ELDERLY

The Regional Committee,

Recalling resolution WHA32.25;

Mindful of the International Plan of Action on Aging, adopted by the World Assembly on Aging, held in Vienna in 1982;

Noting that by the year 2000 the aged population will increase substantially, both in the developed and developing nations of the Western Pacific Region;

Recognizing the need to address a number of critical problems hindering the promotion of the health and the economic and social well-being of the aged;

Noting that in some countries the aged utilize, like the very young, a disproportionately large segment of the health budget and that prevention of disability and dependency, health promotion, self-sufficiency measures, family and peer group support are important to ensure better utilization of resources;

Considering that the four country studies undertaken in the Western Pacific Region indicate a series of common health problems which need to be overcome so that the elderly can become an active and independent force in the community;

1. REQUESTS Member States:

(1) to give increased attention to the problems of the elderly in their national health policies and programmes by formulating strategies and approaches;

(2) to initiate studies through intercountry cooperation, where feasible, in order to develop an adequate information base;

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

(1) to intensify WHO cooperation in the development of national policies and strategies on health of the elderly;

(2) to cooperate with Member States in the promotion of information exchange on care of the elderly.