

The Regional Committee,

Having considered Part 1 of the report of the Sub-Committee on the General Programme of Work on its visits to New Zealand and Papua New Guinea;¹

Recognizing that there are widespread and increasing alcohol-and drug-related problems in many developed and developing countries of the Western Pacific Region;

Noting that, in some countries where the production and consumption of alcohol is permitted, the reduction of alcohol content in certain beverages, such as beer, has assisted in contributing to the reduction of total alcohol consumption;

Reiterating the need to continuously follow up the recommendations of previous resolutions, namely, WPR/RC33.R15 on alcohol as a major public health problem and WPR/RC31.R25 on abuse of narcotic and psychoactive substances;

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to give high priority to the development of comprehensive long-term national policies on alcohol and drug abuse as an integral part of their national health-for-all strategies;

(2) to intensify activities related to alcohol and drug abuse problems in such areas as training of public health workers, school health education, health education of the community and prevention of driving while under the influence of alcohol;

(3) to encourage multisectoral and interagency collaboration to endeavour to eliminate alcohol and drug abuse problems;

(4) to encourage reduction of the intake of alcohol in the community through the more extensive and vigorous promotion of the consumption of non-alcoholic beverages and, where appropriate, to seek the cooperation of industry in substantially reducing the alcohol content of alcoholic beverages;

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:

(1) to intensify collaboration with Member States in implementing regional and national activities related to alcohol and drug abuse;

(2) to collaborate with Member States in their efforts to promote health research on alcohol and drug abuse;

(3) to transmit this resolution to the Director-General and to coordinate the regional activities with the relevant activities at global level.

Seventh meeting, 19 September 1985

¹ Document WPR/RC36/5.