



**REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE WESTERN PACIFIC
BUREAU REGIONAL DU PACIFIQUE OCCIDENTAL**

REGIONAL COMMITTEE

WPR/RC49/12

**Forty-ninth session
Manila
14–18 September 1998**

15 July 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Provisional agenda item 12.6

**TENTH GENERAL PROGRAMME OF WORK
(Report of the Sub-Committee of the Regional Committee on Programmes
and Technical Cooperation, Part V)**

The first Term of Reference of the Sub-Committee requires it to review, analyse and make recommendations on the development and implementation of the General Programme of Work as it affects the Western Pacific Region, especially in setting priorities and addressing policy issues.

However, a decision was made in early May 1998 to delay preparation of the Tenth General Programme of Work until the health-for-all policy for the twenty-first century had been adopted and the new Director-General had taken office.

The Sub-Committee therefore discussed the General Programme of Work in general terms, with members reporting on whether previous General Programmes of Work had been widely used in their own countries.

Article 28(g) of the Constitution of the World Health Organization requires the Executive Board "to submit to the Health Assembly for consideration and approval a general programme of work covering a specific period".

The current Ninth General Programme of Work (GPW), covering the period 1996–2001, is the third General Programme of Work since the adoption in 1979 by the World Health Assembly of Health for All by the Year 2000, committing governments and WHO to the attainment by all citizens of the world by the year 2000 of a level of health that would permit them to lead a socially and economically productive life (resolution WHA32.30).

The Tenth GPW proposed for the three biennia between 2002 and 2007 will be the first full General Programme of Work of the 21st century.

Previous GPWs have varied in size, from the earlier GPWs which were about 10 pages, to the extensive Eighth GPW which was more than 200 pages. The Ninth GPW was 60 pages and was an attempt to make the presentation simpler and easier to use.

The WHO Secretariat has prepared a draft of the Tenth GPW but a decision was made to delay further development to a more appropriate time so the document would reflect:

1. resolution WHA51.7 which adopted the health-for-all policy for the twenty-first century (Annex 1); and
2. the views of the Director-General.

The Sub-Committee was briefed on the delay to the preparation of the Tenth General Programme of Work, and was advised that more information would probably be available before the forty-ninth session of the Regional Committee in September 1998.

Members discussed their own experiences with the Ninth General Programme of Work. Although all Members possessed the document, most tended to use advice from the Regional Director on priorities and resolutions of the Governing Bodies as the basis for programme development, rather than the General Programme of Work. Mongolia has translated the document into Mongolian and it is used as a basis for programme development.

It was felt that the General Programme of Work needs to be a more user-oriented document.



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RESOLUTION OF THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
RÉSOLUTION DE L'ASSEMBLÉE MONDIALE DE
РЕЗОЛЮЦИЯ ВСЕМИРНОЙ АССАМБЛЕИ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ
RESOLUCION DE LA ASAMBLEA MUNDIAL DE LA SALUD

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ANNEX 1

FIFTY-FIRST WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

WHA51.7

Agenda item 19

16 May 1998

Health-for-all policy for the twenty-first century

The Fifty-first World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolution WHA48.16;

Recognizing the report "Health-for-all in the twenty-first century" (A51/5) as a framework for the development of future policy,

ADOPTS in the sense of Article 23 of the Constitution the World Health Declaration annexed to the present resolution.

Annex

WORLD HEALTH DECLARATION

I

We, the Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO), reaffirm our commitment to the principle enunciated in its Constitution that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being; in doing so, we affirm the dignity and worth of every person, and the equal rights, equal duties and shared responsibilities of all for health.

II

We recognize that the improvement of the health and well-being of people is the ultimate aim of social and economic development. We are committed to the ethical concepts of equity, solidarity and social justice and to the incorporation of a gender perspective into our strategies. We emphasize the importance of reducing social and economic inequities in improving the health of the whole population. Therefore, it is imperative to pay the greatest attention to those most in need, burdened by ill-health, receiving inadequate services for health or affected by poverty. We reaffirm our will to promote health by addressing the basic determinants and prerequisites for health. We acknowledge that changes in the world health situation require that we give effect to the "Health-for-All Policy for the twenty-first century" through relevant regional and national policies and strategies.

Annex 1

III

We recommit ourselves to strengthening, adapting and reforming, as appropriate, our health systems, including essential public health functions and services, in order to ensure universal access to health services that are based on scientific evidence, of good quality and within affordable limits, and that are sustainable for the future. We intend to ensure the availability of the essentials of primary health care as defined in the Declaration of Alma-Ata¹ and developed in the new policy. We will continue to develop health systems to respond to the current and anticipated health conditions, socioeconomic circumstances and needs of the people, communities and countries concerned, through appropriately managed public and private actions and investments for health.

IV

We recognize that in working towards health for all, all nations, communities, families and individuals are interdependent. As a community of nations, we will act together to meet common threats to health and to promote universal well-being.

V

We, the Member States of the World Health Organization, hereby resolve to promote and support the rights and principles, action and responsibilities enunciated in this Declaration through concerted action, full participation and partnership, calling on all peoples and institutions to share the vision of health for all in the twenty-first century, and to endeavour in common to realize it.

Tenth plenary meeting, 16 May 1998
A51/VR/10

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¹ Adopted at the International Conference on Primary Health Care, Alma-Ata, 6-12 September 1978, and endorsed by the Thirty-second World Health Assembly in resolution WHA32.30 (May 1979).