

FORTIETH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, GENEVA, 4-15 MAY 1987
WHA40.26 Global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS

The Fortieth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Director-General on WHO's Special Programme on AIDS;

Deeply concerned that this disease, caused by one or more naturally occurring retroviruses of undetermined geographical origin, has assumed pandemic proportions affecting all regions of the world and represents a threat to the attainment of health for all;

Realizing that the transmission of AIDS can be prevented, that information is an essential element of all action for the control of AIDS, and that every individual has a responsibility;

Reiterating that information and education on the modes of transmission, as well as the availability and use of safe blood and blood products, and sterile practices in invasive procedures, are still the only measures available that can limit the further spread of AIDS;

Convinced of the crucial importance of countries closely integrating their programmes for the prevention and control of AIDS within their health systems based on primary health care;

Impressed by the accelerated response of WHO to this emergency during the past year;

Noting with satisfaction that WHO has invested funds from its regular 1986-1987 budget to deal with this serious public health problem despite current financial constraints;

Grateful to all those whose generous extrabudgetary contributions have made it possible to give the required momentum to WHO's efforts to combat AIDS;

Stressing the need for substantial additional voluntary contributions to permit WHO to fulfil its international directing and coordinating role in this field;

Emphasizing that all contributing countries are protecting the health of their own people no less than that of others, since AIDS knows no geographical boundaries;

Realizing that the worldwide emergency created by AIDS will require urgent and vigorous globally directed action in the development of epidemiological surveillance, the intensification of research in prevention, control, diagnosis and treatment, including social science research, the training of national health workers and other relevant areas of prevention, control and research;

Recognizing that, due to the relatively long incubation period of the disease and the large number of people already infected, the worldwide number of AIDS cases will continue to rise in the next few years irrespective of public health strategies to prevent viral transmission;

1. CONFIRMS that WHO should continue to fulfil its role of directing and coordinating the global, urgent and energetic fight against AIDS;
2. ENDORSES the establishment of a Special Programme on AIDS and stresses its high priority;
3. FURTHER ENDORSES the global strategy and programme structure prepared by WHO to combat AIDS;
4. URGES Member States:
 - (1) establish or strengthen effective programmes to combat AIDS in line with the above-mentioned global strategy and recommendations of the third meeting of participating parties, and to ensure that control is integrated into the existing system based on

primary health care, and is based on effective educational and preventive measures to enable each person to protect himself/herself from the disease;

- (2) to cooperate fully with one another in facing this worldwide emergency within the context of the policy of technical cooperation among countries through the adoption of compatible programmes and transfer of appropriate technology;
 - (3) to share in full openness with WHO and with other Member States all relevant and reliable information on AIDS and related infections;
5. URGES Member States to make voluntary contributions in cash and kind for the implementation of the global strategy;
6. APPEALS to bilateral and multilateral agencies, as well as nongovernmental and voluntary organizations, to support the worldwide struggle against AIDS in conformity with WHO's global strategy;
7. REQUESTS the regional committees:
- (1) to keep the situation concerning AIDS in the regions under constant review;
 - (2) to ensure that regional resources to combat AIDS are used in conformity with the global strategy;
 - (3) to report annually to the Director-General on the situation in the regions;
8. REQUESTS the Executive Board to review yearly until further notice the global epidemiological situation concerning AIDS and progress in implementing WHO's global strategy to combat it;
9. REQUESTS the Director-General:
- (1) to ensure that the global strategy to combat AIDS is effectively implemented by the Organization at all levels – country, regional and global – with the aim of containing, progressively reducing and eventually stopping the spread of the infection;
 - (2) to assert WHO's international directing and coordinating role in support of national AIDS programmes;
 - (3) to support national AIDS prevention and control programmes, keeping due balance with other health programmes and ensuring adequate coordination and cooperation between the governments concerned, WHO and other external partners;
 - (4) to continue to develop effective strategies to prevent the transmission of AIDS, including social and behavioural research and advocacy of the role of women in preventing transmission;
 - (5) to reinforce the Organization's support to Member States in designing or strengthening, implementing, monitoring and evaluating national programmes for AIDS prevention and control;
 - (6) to issue guidance on the prevention and control of AIDS on a continuing basis as new information comes to light and the Special Programme evolves;
 - (7) to continue to seek extrabudgetary funds to implement the global AIDS strategy;
 - (8) to establish a Special Account for AIDS in the Voluntary Fund for Health Promotion;
 - (9) to report on the matter to the Executive Board and to the Health Assembly annually.