

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS¹

WHA47.27 International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

The Forty-seventh World Health Assembly,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 48/163 of 21 December 1993 which proclaimed the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, commencing on 10 December 1994, and requested specialized agencies to consider with governments and indigenous people how they can contribute to the success of the Decade;

Recalling also that the resolution appealed to the specialized agencies to increase their efforts and, in particular, to take into account the needs of indigenous people in their budgeting and programming;

Noting that a goal of the Decade should be the strengthening of international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as health;

Mindful of WHO's objective of health for all by the year 2000, which seeks to help all citizens of the world to attain a level of health that will permit them to lead a socially and economically productive life;

Recalling resolution WHA45.24, which urged Member States to take specific steps to improve the health status of the most vulnerable population groups;

Recalling also the discussion on health and indigenous people which took place in Committee B at the Forty- sixth World Health Assembly;

Concerned that due recognition should be given to the value of indigenous people's knowledge and expertise in traditional medicines and practices and that indigenous health care should be based on practical, socially and culturally acceptable methods and technology made universally accessible to individuals and families in their communities;

Noting the efforts already undertaken by the WHO Regional Office for the Americas;

Recalling resolution 1994/26 of the Commission of Human Rights of 4 March 1994 urging United Nations bodies and specialized agencies to designate focal points for liaison with the Centre for Human Rights on activities related to the Decade and to work in partnership with governments and indigenous people to develop and improve programmes that are beneficial to indigenous communities;

Concerned that WHO's expertise should benefit all people,

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS²

1. AGREES that WHO should participate in planning for, and implement the objectives of, the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People;
2. REQUESTS the appropriate regional office to work alongside the governments of the Member States concerned, with indigenous people, including the establishment of a core advisory group of indigenous representatives with special knowledge of the health needs and resources of their communities;
3. CALLS on the Director-General:
 - (1) to increase cooperation between WHO and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Centre for Human Rights, to help to meet health needs of indigenous people in the context of the Decade;
 - (2) to provide Member States with technical support to enable them to accelerate the implementation of their programmes for indigenous people;
 - (3) to assist governments and indigenous people to address indigenous health needs in a culturally effective manner;
 - (4) to consider the contribution WHO might make to promoting respect for, and maintenance of, indigenous knowledge, traditions and remedies, in particular in their pharmacopoeia;
 - (5) to ensure that relevant research projects undertaken by WHO and other specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system are conducted in consultation with, and for the benefit of, indigenous people and communities, such projects being undertaken by indigenous people themselves where appropriate;
4. INVITES Member States with indigenous populations to consider, where appropriate, designating a focal point for cooperation with their communities in all health-related decisions that will have an impact on indigenous people.

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Committee B, third report)