

EB45.R20 Smallpox Eradication Programme

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report of the Director-General on the smallpox eradication programme;

Having noted that significant progress is being made in the eradication effort in most parts of the world and, particularly, in countries of western and central Africa which have virtually succeeded in interrupting smallpox transmission after only three years;

Believing that the progress in the programme to date calls for renewed efforts on the part of all countries and that the programme should continue to be one of the principal objectives of the Organization;

Viewing with concern that a few endemic countries have still not initiated programmes and that not all are yet using freeze-dried vaccine conforming to recommended standards; and

Noting the importance of surveillance in present programmes and the desirability, at this time, of placing a much greater emphasis on the detection, investigation and containment of all cases and outbreaks in all countries,

1. REQUESTS

(1) all countries to take appropriate steps to improve further case-reporting and to adopt as an objective the immediate investigation and containment of all reported cases and outbreaks of smallpox from 1970 onwards; and

(2) all countries to provide continued support to the programme, including vaccine and other assistance; and

2. REITERATES the importance of using in the eradication programme only freeze-dried vaccine which meets the requirements established by WHO;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to contact those endemic countries that are not yet conducting eradication programmes to determine what assistance might be required to permit them to undertake such efforts;

(2) to continue to take all necessary steps to assure the maximum co-ordination of national and international efforts; and

(3) to report further on the progress of the smallpox eradication programme to the World Health Assembly and to the Executive Board.