

OFFICIAL RECORDS  
OF THE  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
No. 231

# EXECUTIVE BOARD

## FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION

GENEVA, 14-30 JANUARY 1976

PART I

RESOLUTIONS  
ANNEXES

PART II

REPORT ON THE PROPOSED  
PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR 1976-1977  
(FINANCIAL YEAR 1977)



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

GENEVA

1976

80. Members of the Board expressed satisfaction with the progress to date and stressed the need to accord the programme absolute priority among the Organization's activities so that interruption of transmission of smallpox might be achieved at the earliest possible time and the necessary activities might be undertaken to provide full assurance that eradication had indeed been accomplished. The hope was expressed that sufficient voluntary donations would be received but, if they were not, the Director-General was requested to mobilize additional resources from within the regular budget. Members emphasized the importance of planning now to ensure that the expertise gained in the programme, the personnel which had been trained and the management and operational techniques which had been developed be utilized fully and effectively in the expanded programme of immunization and other appropriate activities.

### **Smallpox eradication programme**

79. The Board considered a report by the Director-General dealing with the smallpox eradication programme. The report noted the considerable progress made during the past year and the fact that only limited parts of one country—Ethiopia—were now known to be infected by smallpox. There appeared to be excellent prospects that elimination of the last foci might be achieved during 1976. Following this, two years of surveillance in Ethiopia and other countries would be necessary to ensure that there were no remaining foci; international commissions would then need to be convened to confirm the absence of smallpox; additional studies would be necessary to make sure that no animal reservoir persisted; and special efforts would be required to ensure that all laboratories retaining stocks of variola virus had adequate safeguards to prevent accidental infection. Upon completion of these many activities, the Health Assembly would be presented with all documentation to enable it to reach a decision with regard to future steps which might be taken with respect to routine vaccination and use of the International Certificate of Vaccination. The Director-General currently envisaged the need for about \$16 million in international assistance for the period 1976 through 1978, of which about \$10 million was now known to be available through the Organization's regular budget and donations which had been pledged.