

WHA15.53 Smallpox Eradication Programme

The Fifteenth World Health Assembly,

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

Noting that the progress made since the Eleventh World Health Assembly in 1958 took the decision to initiate a world-wide eradication programme has been slow;

Recognizing that countries in the endemic areas are meeting difficulties in organizing country-wide campaigns owing to insufficient funds and health personnel, inadequacy of transport, vaccine and equipment;

Reiterating that the persistence of the disease causes a high morbidity and mortality in the endemic areas and exposes the rest of the world to risk from importation of infection,

1. EMPHASIZES the urgency of achieving eradication;
2. COMMENDS the efforts already made in those countries which are implementing eradication campaigns;
3. URGES the health administrations of those endemic countries which have not already done so to plan and implement country-wide eradication campaigns with stable potent vaccine, in concert with their neighbours;
4. INVITES countries able to do so to make voluntary contributions in cash or in kind of such essential requirements as freeze-dried vaccines, suitable transport and necessary laboratory and cold-storage equipment for distribution by the Organization to countries in the endemic areas with sound eradication programmes requesting such assistance; and
5. REQUESTS the Director-General:
 - (a) to continue to offer advice and technical guidance to the countries concerned;
 - (b) to provide for the necessary activities and material assistance in his programme and budget estimates for future years;
 - (c) to prepare, with the aid of national governments, their requirements and firm estimates of costs for their smallpox eradication programmes; and
 - (d) to report further to the Sixteenth World Health Assembly on the progress of the eradication programme.