

WHA21.21 Smallpox Eradication Programme

The Twenty-first World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Director-General on the smallpox eradication programme, submitted in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution WHA20.15;

Noting that, while progress in the eradication effort is now being made, smallpox continues to represent a serious health problem to both endemic and non-endemic countries; and

Recognizing the need for full and active participation by all endemic countries if eradication is to be achieved, and for the maximum of co-ordination in their efforts,

1. REITERATES that the worldwide eradication of smallpox is one of the major objectives of the Organization;
2. URGES again that:
 - (a) countries having smallpox, and no eradication programmes, give the highest possible priority to the provision of funds and personnel to achieve eradication; and
 - (b) those countries where eradication programmes are progressing slowly intensify their eradication efforts;
3. REQUESTS that those countries where smallpox has been eradicated should continue their vaccination programmes so as to maintain a sufficient level of immunity in their populations;
4. REQUESTS all Member States to give the programme greater support in the form of contributions, such as vaccine and transport, so that the programme may be executed as rapidly as possible;
5. REQUESTS countries providing bilateral aid in the health field to include in their activities assistance in the context of the global smallpox eradication programme;
6. REQUESTS all governments to place particular emphasis on:
 - (a) complete reporting of smallpox cases; and
 - (b) the institution of active containment measures for each outbreak;
7. REQUESTS all governments producing freeze-dried smallpox vaccine to take special care in its preparation so as to ensure that vaccine meets the WHO potency and purity requirements; and
8. REQUESTS the Director-General:
 - (a) to continue to take all necessary steps to assure the maximum co-ordination of national efforts and provision of contributions from international and bilateral agencies with the objective of achieving smallpox eradication as quickly as possible;
 - (b) to report further to the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly.