

The Twenty-fifth World Health Assembly,

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

Appreciating the significant progress made to date in programmes throughout the world, and congratulating those countries which have succeeded in eradicating the disease;

Noting with concern, however, that endemic smallpox still exists in parts of Africa and Asia and that smallpox has recently reappeared in several countries which were free from the disease,

1. REQUESTS all Member States to continue to give priority attention to the eradication of smallpox, to intensify their efforts to interrupt transmission of the disease in the remaining endemic areas as soon as possible, and to prevent smallpox from re-establishing itself in countries from which it has been eliminated;

2. URGES all governments concerned:

(a) to report immediately to the Organization, as already required, all cases of smallpox, and in particular to use the most rapid means in respect of any case which occurs in a non-endemic area;

(b) to establish or strengthen national surveillance systems with a view to the identification of sources of infection, the rapid containment of outbreaks, and the elimination of endemic foci;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General to arrange to transmit promptly to all Member States whom it may concern information provided under paragraph 2 (a);

4. RECOMMENDS further that countries normally free of smallpox, where cases occur or are suspected, inform WHO fully of their epidemiological investigations and give such opportunity of WHO participation as would best facilitate international coordination of the measures taken;

5. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(a) to provide assessment teams on request to countries which have recently interrupted smallpox transmission;

(b) to continue to extend every possible assistance to countries to facilitate progress in the programme, including the development, to the extent possible, of audiovisual materials such as illustrated books and films;

6. THANKS those countries that are generously contributing vaccine to the programme, either under bilateral agreements or through the WHO Voluntary Fund for Health Promotion;

7. RECOMMENDS the intensification of research on all aspects of the problem, including the laboratory diagnosis of smallpox, the treatment of smallpox cases, immunizing mechanisms in pox virus infections and the effects of simultaneous application of several different antigens; and

8. REQUESTS the Director-General to report to the Twenty-sixth World Health Assembly on the progress of the eradication programme.