

**WHA31.54 Smallpox eradication programme : Current status and certification**

The Thirty-first World Health Assembly,

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

Endorsing the Executive Board's resolution EB61.R10 on smallpox eradication;

Recognizing that for six months reported smallpox incidence throughout the world has been nil, that achievement of smallpox eradication is now imminent, and that it will constitute an unprecedented event in the history of medicine;

1. CONGRATULATES Somalia on the effective eradication campaign and adjacent countries on their intensive surveillance and maintenance of their smallpox-free status;

2. COMMENDS Bangladesh, Burma, the nine countries of central Africa (Burundi, Central African Empire, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, United Republic of Cameroon, and Zaire), and the four countries of south-east Africa (Malawi, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia) where international commissions have visited and certified eradication of smallpox in 1977 and in 1978 to date;
3. REQUESTS the 31 countries where certification activities will take place in 1978 and 1979 to proceed with their planned activities, in collaboration with WHO and the Global Commission for the Certification of Smallpox Eradication so that these activities can be completed by the end of 1979;
4. REQUESTS all laboratories except WHO collaborating centres to destroy or transfer remaining stocks of variola virus to a collaborating centre;
5. REQUESTS the Director-General to establish a reward of US \$1000 for the first person who, in the period preceding final certification of global eradication, reports an active case of smallpox resulting from person-to-person transmission and confirmed by laboratory tests, in the belief that such a reward will strengthen worldwide vigilance for smallpox as well as national surveillance in priority countries;
6. REITERATES the final paragraph of the Executive Board's resolution EB61.R10, which urged all governments to continue full support and cooperation for this final phase of the programme.