

## eHealth

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report on eHealth,<sup>1</sup>

RECOMMENDS to the Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly, the adoption of the following resolution:

The Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on eHealth;

Noting the potential impact that advances in information and communication technologies could have on health-care delivery, public health, research and health-related activities for the benefit of both low- and high-income countries;

Aware that advances in information and communication technologies have raised expectations for health;

Respecting the principles of equity, and considering differences in culture, education, language, geographical location, physical and mental ability, age, and sex;

Recognizing that a WHO eHealth strategy would serve as a basis for WHO's activities on eHealth;

Recalling resolution WHA51.9 on cross-border advertising, promotion, and sale of medical products through the Internet;

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to consider drawing up a long-term strategic plan for developing and implementing eHealth services that includes an appropriate legal framework and infrastructure and encourages public and private partnerships;<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB115/39.

<sup>2</sup> eHealth is understood in this context to mean use of any information and communication technologies locally and at a distance.

- (2) to develop the infrastructure for information and communication technologies for health as deemed appropriate to promote equitable, affordable, and universal access to their benefits, and to continue to work with information telecommunication agencies and other partners to strive to reduce costs to make eHealth successful;
- (3) to build on closer collaboration with the private and non-profit sectors in information and communication technologies, to further public services for health;
- (4) to endeavour to reach communities, including vulnerable groups, with eHealth services appropriate to their needs;
- (5) to mobilize multisectoral collaboration for determining evidence-based eHealth standards and norms, to evaluate eHealth activities, and to share the knowledge of cost-effective models, thus ensuring quality, safety and ethical standards;
- (6) to establish national centres and networks of excellence for eHealth best practice, policy coordination, and technical support for health-care delivery, service improvement, information to citizens, capacity building, and surveillance;
- (7) to consider establishing and implementing national public-health information systems and to improve, by means of information, the capacity for the surveillance of, and rapid response to, disease and public health emergencies;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to promote international, multisectoral collaboration with a view to improving compatibility of administrative and technical solutions in the area of eHealth;
- (2) to document and analyse developments and trends, inform policy and practice in countries, and report regularly on use of eHealth worldwide;
- (3) to provide technical support to Member States in relation to eHealth products and services by disseminating widely experiences and best practices, in particular on telemedicine technology; devising assessment methodologies; promoting research and development; and furthering standards through diffusion of guidelines;
- (4) to facilitate the integration of eHealth in health systems and services, including in the training of health-care professionals and in capacity building, in order to improve access to, and quality and safety of, care;
- (5) to continue the expansion to Member States of mechanisms such as the Health Academy which promote health awareness and healthy lifestyles through eLearning;<sup>1</sup>
- (6) to provide support to Member States to promote the development, application and management of national standards of health information; and to collect and collate available information on standards with a view to establishing national standardized health information systems in order to facilitate easy and effective exchange of information among Member States;

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<sup>1</sup> eLearning is understood in this context to mean use of any electronic technology and media in support of learning.

(7) to support regional and interregional initiatives in the area of eHealth among groups of countries that speak a common language.

Twelfth meeting, 24 January 2005  
EB115/SR/12

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