SIXTY-THIRD WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY **WHA63.25**

Agenda item 11.18 **21 May 2010**

Improvement of health through safe and environmentally sound waste management

The Sixty-third World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;[1]

Recalling resolution WHA61.19 on climate change and health, and resolutions WHA59.15, WHA50.13, WHA45.32, WHA31.28 and WHA30.47 relating to chemical safety;

Recalling also resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly 44/226 of 22 December 1989 on traffic in and disposal, control and transboundary movements of toxic and dangerous products and wastes and 43/212 of 20 December 1988 on the responsibility of States for the protection of the environment;

Noting the principles set out in Agenda 21, including chapter 20 and chapter 21, as agreed upon at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992;

Noting also the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the related Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002;

Acknowledging decision 25/8 on Waste Management adopted by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme at its 25th session;

Mindful of the outcomes of the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management which relate to human health;

Aware that wastes, if not properly managed in a safe and environmentally sound manner, may have serious consequences for human health and livelihood;

Convinced that the lack of environmentally sound management of waste will harm the environment and be detrimental to human health, through polluted air, water, land and food chains;

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[1] Document A63/21.

Concerned that poor management of health-care waste, including sharps, non-sharp materials, blood, body parts, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, puts health-care workers, waste handlers and the community at risk of infections, toxic effects and injuries;

Welcoming the Bali Declaration on Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal in 2008,

1. URGES Member States[1] to apply the Health Impact Assessment as one of the key tools to assess the health aspects of waste management in order to make it safe and environmentally sound and to explore options to work more closely with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the WHO Secretariat towards achieving their shared objectives on the improvement of health through safe and environmentally sound waste management;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to support the implementation of the actions set out in the Bali Declaration on Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood, within WHO's mandate and available resources;

(2) to work together with the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal on environmentally sound waste management, including collaborating with governments and donor organizations to strengthen the implementation of the Bali Declaration on Waste Management for Human Health and Livelihood, with the aim in particular of:

(a) promoting the raising of awareness about the link between waste management, health and livelihood, and the environment;

(b) strengthening subregional and regional cooperation on waste and health issues by promoting human and appropriate technical capacities at national, regional and international levels;

(c) improving controls on waste shipment and border procedures in order to prevent illegal movements of hazardous and other wastes, through means that include capacity building, technology transfer and technical assistance;

(d) improving cooperation between national authorities in the waste, chemicals and health sectors and, in collaboration with other relevant authorities and stakeholders, in the development and implementation of effective and sound waste management systems;

(e) increasing capacity building, promoting and, where possible, enhancing public and private investment for the transfer and use of appropriate technology for the safe and environmentally sound waste management;

[1] And regional economic integration organizations, where applicable.

(3) to continue supporting the prevention of health risks associated with exposure to health-care waste and promoting environmentally sound management of health-care waste in order to support the work of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;

(4) to explore the development of strategies aimed at minimizing the generation of health-care waste;

(5) to invite governments, relevant intergovernmental and regional economic integration organizations, relevant entities of the industry and business sectors and civil society to provide resources and technical assistance to developing countries in developing and implementing strategies and approaches to improve health through safe and environmentally sound waste management;

(6) to report to the Sixty-fourth World Health Assembly, through the Executive Board, on implementation of this resolution.

Eighth plenary meeting, 21 May 2010
A63/VR/8

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