

## RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS1

### **WHA28.53 Schistosomiasis**

The Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolutions EB5.R5 and EB55.R22 on schistosomiasis;

Noting that the disease remains largely uncontrolled and that its prevalence is increasing, and that water development projects designed to improve needed agricultural production and to improve needed economic conditions undertaken without consideration given to preventive health measures may contribute to this increase;

Noting the increasing evidence of the possible occurrence of serious complications and sequelae as a result of schistosomiasis infection;

Noting further that the World Food Conference emphasized the need for greatly increased food production and noted that meeting nutritional and other requirements of the world's expanding population will require more projects to impound water and irrigate fields;

Expressing the view that proper engineering design of water management projects can have considerable importance in limiting the spread of schistosomiasis among populations affected by such projects;

Noting the inclusion of schistosomiasis within the coordinated biomedical research programme of the Organization;

Recognizing that effective planning for, and operation of, schistosomiasis control activities requires close cooperation and coordination among agencies within the United Nations system, the international financial community and ministries within national governments under the leadership of the World Health Organization;

## RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS<sup>2</sup>

Expressing appreciation for the report of the Director-General which outlines the complexity of the problems involved to prove the feasibility of schistosomiasis control;

Looking forward to the important international meeting on schistosomiasis which is scheduled to be held in Cairo in October 1975; and

Recognizing the very high costs of implementation of control programmes using present available methods,

REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to prepare and keep guidelines current on the development of water management projects, including engineering specifications, to minimize the possibility of the spread of schistosomiasis and other water borne disease in water management projects;
- (2) to advise countries and donor organizations on the application of guidelines on water development, including hydroelectric, projects planned, under construction, or completed;
- (3) to request Members to make available information on schistosomiasis control programmes under way or carried out in their countries, including details of research work, manpower development programmes, costs, etc.;
- (4) to seek extrabudgetary support and assistance from various sources within the United Nations system and international and private agencies in order to provide assistance to governments
  - (a) in planning and carrying out studies of the epidemiology of the disease, the cost/effectiveness of alternative methods of control, and its social and economic impact,
  - (b) in the preparation and implementation of control programmes;
- (5) to stimulate increased efforts in research in drug development, chemotherapy,

## RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS<sup>3</sup>

epidemiology, control including methodologies for self help, and immunological aspects of schistosomiasis;

(6) to draw the attention of Member States where the disease is not endemic to the desirability of organizing epidemiological surveillance within health services; and

(7) to report on this matter to the Twenty ninth World Health Assembly.

*Handb. Res., Vol. II, 1.8.3*

Twelfth plenary meeting, 28 May 1975

(Committee A, first report)