

Outcome of the World Conference on Social Determinants of Health

The Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on the World Conference on Social Determinants of Health (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 19–21 October 2011);¹

Reiterating the determination to take action on social determinants of health as collectively agreed by the World Health Assembly and reflected in resolution WHA62.14 on reducing health inequities through action on the social determinants of health, which notes the three overarching recommendations of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health: to improve daily living conditions; to tackle the inequitable distribution of power, money and resources; and to measure and understand the problem and assess the impact of action;

Recognizing the need to do more to accelerate progress in addressing the unequal distribution of health resources as well as conditions damaging to health at all levels;

Recognizing also the need to safeguard the health of the populations regardless of global economic downturns;

Further acknowledging that health equity is a shared goal and responsibility and requires the engagement of all sectors of government, all segments of society, and all members of the international community, in “all-for-equity” and “health-for-all” global actions;

Recognizing the benefits of universal health coverage in enhancing health equity and reducing impoverishment;

Reaffirming the political will to make health equity a national, regional and global goal and to address current challenges – such as eradicating hunger and poverty; ensuring food and nutritional security, access to affordable, safe, efficacious and quality medicines as well as to safe drinking-water and sanitation, employment and decent work and social protection; protecting environments and delivering equitable economic growth through resolute action on social determinants of health across all sectors and at all levels;

Welcoming the discussions and results of the World Conference on Social Determinants of Health (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 19–21 October 2011),

¹ Document A65/16.

1. ENDORSES the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health adopted by the World Conference on Social Determinants of Health,¹ including as a key input to the work of Member States² and WHO;
2. URGES Member States:²
 - (1) to implement the pledges made in the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health with regard to (i) better governance for health and development, (ii) promoting participation in policy-making and implementation, (iii) further reorienting the health sector towards reducing health inequities, (iv) strengthening global governance and collaboration, and (v) monitoring progress and increasing accountability;
 - (2) to develop and support policies, strategies, programmes and action plans that address social determinants of health, with clearly defined goals, activities and accountability mechanisms and with resources for their implementation;
 - (3) to support the further development of the “health-in-all-policies” approach as a way to promote health equity;
 - (4) to build capacities among policy-makers, managers, and programme workers in health and other sectors to facilitate work on social determinants of health;
 - (5) to give due consideration to social determinants of health as part of the deliberations on sustainable development, in particular in the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and deliberations in other United Nations forums with relevance to health;
3. CALLS UPON the international community to support the implementation of the pledges made in the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health for action on social determinants of health, including through:
 - (1) supporting the leading role of WHO in global health governance and promoting alignment of policies, plans and activities on social determinants of health with those of its partner organizations in the United Nations system, development banks and other key international organizations, including in joint advocacy, and in facilitating access to the provision of financial and technical support to countries and regions, in particular developing countries;
 - (2) strengthening international cooperation, with a view to promoting health equity in all countries, through facilitating transfer on mutually agreed terms of expertise, technologies and scientific data in the field of social determinants of health, as well as exchanging good practices for managing intersectoral policy development;
 - (3) facilitating access to financial resources;
4. URGES those developed countries that have pledged to achieve the target of 0.7% of gross national product for official development assistance by 2015, and those developed countries that have

¹ See Annex 3.

² And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

not yet done so, to make additional concrete efforts to fulfil their commitments in this regard, and also urges developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help to achieve development goals and targets;

5. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to duly consider social determinants of health in the assessment of global needs for health, including in the WHO reform process and WHO's future work;

(2) to provide support to Member States in implementing the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health through approaches such as "health-in-all policies" in order to address social determinants of health;

(3) to work closely with other organizations in the United Nations system on advocacy, research, capacity-building and direct technical support to Member States for work on social determinants of health;

(4) to continue to convey and advocate the importance of integrating social determinants of health perspectives into forthcoming United Nations and other high-level meetings related to health and/or social development;

(5) to report to the Sixty-sixth and Sixty-eighth World Health Assemblies, through the Executive Board, on progress in implementing this resolution and the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health.

Tenth plenary meeting, 26 May 2012
A65/VR/10

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