WHA24.57 Drug dependence

The Twenty-fourth World Health Assembly,

Observing that the phenomenon of abuse of and addiction to narcotic and non narcotic dependence producing drugs is rapidly becoming a major world health problem, adversely affecting the social, cultural, political, economic and educational fabric of the world community;

Recognizing that effective solutions require the coordinated efforts of international organizations and agencies, the Member States, regional and local authorities, and the world citizenry;

Declaring that the World Health Organization has a responsibility to provide leadership, guidance and technical assistance to the world community and the Member States in the fields of treatment, rehabilitation, education, prevention and research;

Urging that the Member States respond and cooperate by promoting new and improved treatment, rehabilitation, education and prevention programmes at the local and national levels;

Recalling resolution WHA23.42;

Recalling further resolution 2719 (XXV) of the United Nations General Assembly and welcoming the establishment of the United Nations Fund for Drug abuse Control;

Welcoming the adoption in Vienna of a new international Convention on Psychotropic Substances; ¹ and

Having reviewed the report by the Director-General on drug dependence and the activities of the Organization in this area,²

CONGRATULATES the Director-General for this report and approves the programme expansion proposed therein, especially the collection and exchange of data, the analysis of all medical, social, cultural and economic factors contributing to drug dependence, the conduct of research and training programmes, and the evaluation of existing programmes and the recommendation of new programmes;

2. AFFIRMS that, because of the serious public health aspects and implications of drug dependence, the World Health Organization has an important role to play in any concerted international action against drug abuse;

3. RECOMMENDS continued World Health Organization cooperation and collaboration with other organizations and agencies within the United Nations system in planning and implementing international programmes, in particular with UNESCO in regard to the most effective methods of informing and educating the public and especially the young, and FAO in regard to a study of crop substitution and to the economic aspects, among others, of marketing;

4. RECOMMENDS that WHO assist governments of Member States, upon their request, in developing procedures for coordination of their national drug abuse control programmes;

5. REQUESTS that the Director-General submit as soon as possible projects and programmes consistent with the programmes and policies as approved by the World Health Assembly to the United Nations Fund for Drug abuse Control, seeking financial assistance for programme expansion both at headquarters and in the Regions;

6. REQUESTS the Director-General to report on these matters to the forty ninth session of the Executive Board and to the Twenty fifth World Health Assembly;

7. URGES Member States that have not already done so to accede to the Convention on Psychotropic Substances; and

8. INVITES Member States, to the extent that they are able to do so, to apply provisionally the measures of control provided in the Convention on Psychotropic Substances pending its entry into force.

Handb. Res., 11th ed., 1.9.4.2; 1.9.4.3 Seventeenth plenary meeting, 20 May 1971
(Committee A, sixth report)