

WHA36.12 Alcohol consumption and alcohol-related problems: development of national policies and programmes

The Thirty-sixth World Health Assembly,

Recalling previous resolutions, particularly resolution [WHA32.40](#), concerning the development of WHO's programme on alcohol-related problems;

Reiterating the firm conviction that alcohol-related problems rank among the world's major public health concerns and constitute a serious hazard for human welfare, and that it is therefore necessary for Member States and for WHO to intensify their efforts to reduce these problems;

Seriously concerned by the worldwide trends in alcohol consumption and alcohol-related problems, and by the promotional drives to increase the consumption of alcohol, especially in countries and in population groups in which its use was not previously widespread;

Believing that increasing alcohol consumption and alcohol-related problems are incompatible with achieving health for all by the year 2000, and hence policies to reduce them must form an integral part of the strategy for health for all;

Recognizing that an effective strategy to tackle alcohol-related problems necessitates comprehensive national alcohol policies;

Mindful that effective national alcohol policy requires a concerted effort consisting of a wide variety of measures for prevention, appropriate services for management with emphasis on the primary health care approach, and supporting research and evaluation, giving high priority to prevention by reducing the availability of and demand for alcohol;

Noting with satisfaction that the report of the WHO Expert Committee on Problems related to Alcohol Consumption ¹ provides a thorough and authoritative summary of current knowledge applicable in this field and contains a number of important recommendations for WHO and Member States;

Appreciating the work already carried out by WHO, and recognizing the important contribution of the Technical Discussions held at the Thirty-fifth World Health Assembly on "Alcohol consumption and alcohol-related problems" for future developments;

1. URGES Member States to identify the actual and anticipated problems associated with alcohol consumption;

2. RECOMMENDS that Member States:

(1) formulate comprehensive national alcohol policies, with preventive measures as a priority, and with attention to populations at special risk, within the framework of the strategy for health for all;

(2) develop mechanisms to coordinate programmes and activities for reducing alcohol-related problems on a planned, continuous and long-term basis;

(3) give serious consideration in their national alcohol policy to all measures suggested in its report by the WHO Expert Committee on Problems related to Alcohol Consumption, ²

(4) implement the policy adopted and evaluate its effectiveness with a view to further policy development;

3. REQUESTS the Executive Board to monitor and evaluate the development of WHO's alcohol programme;

4. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to continue and intensify WHO's programme on alcohol-related problems as an integral part of the strategy for health for all through a primary health care approach, as envisaged in the Seventh General Programme of Work, and, in accordance with resolution [WHA32.40](#):

(a) to strengthen further WHO's capacity to respond to requests from Member States to support their efforts in dealing with alcohol-related problems;

(b) to carry out studies on factors affecting alcohol consumption patterns and on measures to influence these patterns;

(c) to promote further joint consideration by the organizations of the United Nations system and nongovernmental organizations of the problems associated with alcohol and their alleviation;

(d) to seek additional funds from relevant United Nations bodies as well as governmental and nongovernmental sources;

(2) to ensure that necessary organizational, staffing and budgetary implications for the Organization are taken into account in the preparation of the programme budget for 1986-1987;

(3) to use all possible mechanisms for drawing attention and giving publicity to health problems related to alcohol consumption, for example by selecting this topic as a theme for a future World Health Day;

(4) to report on the progress made to the Thirty-eighth World Health Assembly.

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Committee A, first report)