The Forty-sixth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Director-General on the International Conference on Nutrition and the consequent proposed WHO strategy for supporting nutrition action at all levels;¹(1)

Commending Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations concerned for their participation in the preparatory process and in the International Conference itself, and for their pledge to follow it up;

Commending the Director-General for his effective collaboration with other organizations of the United Nations system, especially FAO, in organizing the International Conference and for according high priority to nutrition by allocating additional resources, in particular for those countries most in need,

1. ENDORSES in their entirety the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition adopted by the Conference;²(2)

2. URGES Member States:

(1) by the year 2000, to strive to eliminate famine and famine-related deaths, starvation and nutritional deficiency diseases in communities affected by natural and man-made disasters, and in particular iodine and vitamin A deficiencies;

(2) by the year 2000, to reduce substantially the prevalence of starvation and widespread chronic hunger; undernutrition, especially among children, women and old people; iron deficiency anaemia; foodborne diseases; and social and other impediments to optimal breast-feeding; and to remedy inadequate sanitation and poor hygiene;

(3) to contain and reduce the rate at which the prevalence of diet-related diseases and of conditions related to them is rising:
(4) to develop, or strengthen as appropriate, plans of action setting out national nutritional goals and how they are to be achieved in keeping with the objectives, major policy guidelines and nine action-oriented strategies that were elaborated in the Plan of Action adopted by the International Conference on Nutrition, which also endorsed the nutritional goals of the Fourth United Nations Development Decade and of the World Summit for Children;

(5) to ensure the implementation of plans of action which:

(a) incorporate nutrition objectives into national development policies and programmes;

(b) strengthen measures in various sectors to improve nutrition through governmental mechanisms at all levels, especially district development plans, and in collaboration with nongovernmental organizations and the private sector;

(c) include community-based measures, particularly through primary health care activities, for nutritional improvement that are crucial if full and sustainable benefits are to be obtained for all people;

(d) are sustainable in the long term and contribute to protection of the environment;

(e) enlist the cooperation of all groups concerned;

3. CALLS UPON organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and the international community as a whole:

(1) to renew their commitment to the achievement of the objectives and strategies set out in the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition including, to the extent that their mandates and resources allow, technical cooperation and financial support to recipient countries;

(2) to reinforce and foster concerted action at all levels for the establishment and implementation of national plans of action in nutrition with a view to attaining health and nutritional well-being for all;
REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to support Member States in establishing and implementing national plans of action for nutritional improvement that emphasize self-reliance and community-based action, especially as regards their health-related aspects;

(2) to reinforce WHO’s capacity for food and nutrition action in all relevant programmes, so that increased emphasis can be given as a priority to maternal, infant and young child nutrition, including breast-feeding; micronutrient malnutrition; nutrition emergencies (particularly training in preparedness and management); monitoring of nutritional status; control of diet-related chronic diseases; food safety control and the prevention of foodborne diseases; and research and training in subjects related to food and nutrition, including health implications of the misuse of chemicals and hormones in agriculture;

(3) to give priority to least developed, low income, and drought-affected countries, and to provide support to Member States in establishing national programmes, especially those concerned with nutritional well-being of vulnerable populations, including women and children, refugees and displaced persons;

(4) to stimulate exchange of ideas and of plans within regions;

(5) to report on progress in implementation by Member States of the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition to the Health Assembly in 1995 as stated in the Plan of Action.