

FORTY-EIGHTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY GENEVA, 1-12 MAY 1995
WHA48(8), Review of The world health report 1995, incorporating the Director-General's report on the work of WHO

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The Forty-eighth World Health Assembly, after reviewing *The world health report 1995*, incorporating the Director-General's report on the work of the Organization in 1994, ¹ commended the Director-General for the new approach to reporting on the world health situation and expressed its satisfaction with the manner in which the programme of the Organization was being implemented.

(Tenth plenary meeting, 5 May 1995)



FIFTIETH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY GENEVA, 5-14 MAY 1997

WHA50.24 Financing of the WHO worldwide management information system through the use of

WHA50.24 Financing of the WHO worldwide management information system through the use of casual income

The Fiftieth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Director-General on the financing of the WHO worldwide management information system from casual income;

Recognizing the importance of adequate funding for the rapid development and implementation of the management information system in order to increase the efficiency of the Organization;

Recognizing the need for the gradual incorporation of recurring costs into the regular budget,

AUTHORIZES the financing of the WHO worldwide management information system at an estimated amount of US\$ 6 145 000 from available casual income.

Hbk Res., Vol. III (3rd ed.), 1.3.1.5 (Ninth plenary meeting, 13 May 1997 -
Committee A, third report)



eHealth

The Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on eHealth;¹

Noting the potential impact that advances in information and communication technologies could have on health-care delivery, public health, research and health-related activities for the benefit of both low- and high-income countries;

Aware that advances in information and communication technologies have raised expectations for health;

Respecting the human rights, ethical issues and the principles of equity and considering differences in culture, education, language, geographical location, physical and mental ability, age, and sex;

Recognizing that a WHO eHealth strategy would serve as a basis for WHO's activities on eHealth;

Recalling resolution WHA51.9 on cross-border advertising, promotion, and sale of medical products through the Internet;

Stressing that eHealth is the cost-effective and secure use of information and communications technologies in support of health and health-related fields, including health-care services, health surveillance, health literature, and health education, knowledge and research,

1. URGES Member States:

- (1) to consider drawing up a long-term strategic plan for developing and implementing eHealth services in the various areas of health sectors, including health administration, which includes an appropriate legal framework and infrastructure and encourages public and private partnerships;

¹ Document A58/21.

- (2) to develop the infrastructure for information and communication technologies for health as deemed appropriate to promote equitable, affordable, and universal access to their benefits, and to continue to work with information and telecommunication agencies and other partners in order to reduce costs and make eHealth successful;
- (3) to build on closer collaboration with the private and non-profit sectors in information and communication technologies, so as to further public services for health and make use of the eHealth services of WHO and other health organizations, and to seek their support in the area of eHealth;
- (4) to endeavour to reach communities, including vulnerable groups, with eHealth services appropriate to their needs;
- (5) to mobilize multisectoral collaboration for determining evidence-based eHealth standards and norms, to evaluate eHealth activities, and to share the knowledge of cost-effective models, thus ensuring quality, safety and ethical standards and respect for the principles of confidentiality of information, privacy, equity and equality;
- (6) to establish national centres and networks of excellence for eHealth best practice, policy coordination, and technical support for health-care delivery, service improvement, information to citizens, capacity building, and surveillance;
- (7) to consider establishing and implementing national electronic public-health information systems and to improve, by means of information, the capacity for surveillance of, and rapid response to, disease and public-health emergencies;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to promote international, multisectoral collaboration with a view to improving compatibility of administrative and technical solutions and ethical guidelines in the area of eHealth;
- (2) to expand the use of electronic information through the submission of regular reports, to document and analyse developments and trends, to inform policy and practice in countries, and to report regularly on use of eHealth worldwide;
- (3) to facilitate the development of model eHealth solutions which with appropriate modification could be established in national centres and networks of excellence for eHealth;
- (4) to provide technical support to Member States in relation to eHealth products and services by disseminating widely experiences and best practices, in particular on telemedicine technology; devising assessment methodologies; promoting research and development; and furthering standards through diffusion of guidelines;
- (5) to facilitate the integration of eHealth in health systems and services, including in the deployment of telemedicine infrastructure in countries where medical coverage is inadequate and in the training of health-care professionals and in capacity building, in order to improve access to, and quality and safety of, care;

- (6) to continue the expansion to Member States of mechanisms such as the Health Academy, which promote health awareness and healthy lifestyles through eLearning;¹
- (7) to provide support to Member States to promote the development, application and management of national standards of health information; and to collect and collate available information on standards with a view to establishing national standardized health information systems in order to facilitate easy and effective exchange of information among Member States;
- (8) to support in the area of eHealth regional and interregional initiatives or those among groups of countries that speak a common language;
- (9) to submit to the Executive Board, at its 117th session, a list of proposed specific activities upon which the Secretariat will focus, which should be entirely aimed at tools and services that Member States can incorporate into their own national solutions or adapt as necessary, and an outline of the budgetary implications of proposed activities.

Ninth plenary meeting, 25 May 2005
A58/VR/9

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¹ eLearning is understood in this context to mean use of any electronic technology and media in support of learning.

Ministerial Summit on Health Research

The Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the Mexico Statement on Health Research resulting from the Ministerial Summit on Health Research convened by the Director-General of WHO and the Government of Mexico (Mexico City, 16-20 November 2004);

Acknowledging that high-quality research, and the generation and application of knowledge are critical for achieving the internationally agreed health-related development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, improving the performance of health systems, advancing human development, and attaining equity in health;

Recognizing the need to strengthen evidence-based evaluation of the consequences of health and other policies and practices impacting on health at national, regional, and local levels;

Reaffirming the need to create demand for research and to foster participation in the research process;

Sensitive to the need to strengthen national health-research systems by building relevant capacity, developing capable leadership, providing essential monitoring and evaluation tools, improving capacity for ethical review of research, and determining necessary ethical standards and regulations for population health, health care, and clinical research;

Committed to promoting access to reliable, relevant, and up-to-date evidence on the effects of interventions, based on systematic review of the totality of available research findings, and taking into account existing models;

Conscious of the need to identify relatively underfunded areas of research, such as health systems and public health, where increased resources and leadership would accelerate the achievement of internationally agreed health-related development goals;

Emphasizing that research is a global endeavour based on the sharing of knowledge and information and conducted according to appropriate national ethical guidelines and standards,

1. ACKNOWLEDGES the Mexico Statement on Health Research resulting from the Ministerial Summit on Health Research (Mexico City, 16-20 November 2004);
2. URGES Member States:
 - (1) to consider implementing the recommendation made by the Commission on Health Research for Development in 1990 that “developing countries should invest at least 2% of national health expenditures in research and research capacity strengthening, and at least 5% of project and program aid for the health sector from development aid agencies should be earmarked for research and research capacity strengthening”;¹
 - (2) to establish and implement or strengthen a national health-research policy with appropriate political support and to allocate adequate funding and human resources for health-systems research;
 - (3) to encourage collaboration with other partners in health research so as to facilitate the conduct of such research within their health systems;
 - (4) to promote activities to strengthen national health-research systems, including the improvement of the knowledge base for decision-making, setting priorities, managing research, monitoring performance, adopting standards and regulations for high-quality research and its ethical oversight, and ensuring participation in such activities of the community, nongovernmental organizations, and patients;
 - (5) to establish or strengthen mechanisms to transfer knowledge in support of evidence-based public health and health-care delivery systems, and evidence-based health-related policies;
 - (6) to support, together with WHO and the global scientific community, networking of national research agencies and other stakeholders with a view to conducting collaborative research in order to address global health priorities;
 - (7) to encourage public debate on the ethical dimension and societal implications of health research among researchers, practitioners, patients and representatives of civil society and the private sector and to encourage transparency on research results and on possible conflicts of interest;
3. CALLS UPON the global scientific community, international partners, the private sector, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate:
 - (1) to provide support for a substantive and sustainable programme of health-systems research aligned with priority country needs and aimed at achieving the internationally agreed health-related development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;
 - (2) to establish a voluntary platform to link clinical trials registers in order to ensure a single point of access and the unambiguous identification of trials with a view to enhancing access to information by patients, families, patient groups and others;

¹ *Commission on Health Research for Development. Health research: essential link to equity in development.* New York, Oxford University Press, 1990.

(3) to strengthen or establish the transfer of knowledge in order to communicate, improve access to, and promote use of, reliable, relevant, unbiased, and timely health information;

(4) to provide support for national, regional, and global research partnerships, including public-private partnerships, to accelerate the development of essential drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics, and mechanisms for their equitable delivery;

(5) to recognize the need to involve the relevant authorities in the Member States concerned in the initial planning of health research projects;

(6) to support, together with the WHO Secretariat and Member States, networking of national research agencies and other stakeholders to the greatest extent possible as a means of identifying and conducting collaborative research that would address global health priorities;

4. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to undertake an assessment of WHO's internal resources, expertise and activities in the area of health research, with a view to developing a position paper on WHO's role and responsibilities in the area of health research and to report through the Executive Board to the next World Health Assembly;

(2) to engage in consultation with interested stakeholders on creation of a programme on health-systems research geared to assisting Member States to accelerate achievement of internationally agreed health-related development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

(3) to pursue with interested partners the development of a voluntary platform to link clinical trials registers;

(4) to assist in the development of more effective mechanisms to bridge the divide between ways in which knowledge is generated and ways in which it is used, including the transformation of health-research findings into policy and practice;

(5) to consider the possibility, with other interested stakeholders, of convening an international conference on research into human resources for health, and to consider convening the next ministerial-level meeting on health research in 2008;

(6) to ensure that meetings open to all Member States on health research organized by WHO that are characterized as summits or as ministerial summits are first approved by the World Health Assembly.

Ninth plenary meeting, 25 May 2005
A58/VR/9

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