

- 1. COMMENDS the Scottish association football team for its participation as a "non-smoking" team in the 1982 World Cup competition, thus setting an excellent example to all participants in sport and their supporters;
- 2. HOPES that other teams may wish to emulate this initiative;
- 3. REQUESTS the Director-General to take appropriate action to

support this important health education opportunity in relation to the World Cup competition.

Jan. 1982 EB69/1982/REC/1, 16

REPORTS OF EXPERT COMMITTEES

	Published in Technical Report Series No.	Relevant resolution or decision
Smoking and its effects on health	568	EB57.R3 (1976)
Smoking control (Controlling the smoking epidemic)	636	EB65(1) (1980)
Smoking control strategies in developing countries	695	EB73(3) (1984)

1.17 HEALTH INFORMATION SUPPORT

For the role of WHO in the development, coordination, and improvement of bio-medical communications, see resolution WHA25.26, Volume I, page 483.

1.17.1 WHO PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS

For previous resolutions, see Volume I, page 179.

PUBLICATIONS ON SMALLPOX ERADICATION

WHA28.52 The Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly,

4. DEEMS it necessary to summarize and describe in a major publication the experience of smallpox eradication throughout the world, for which purpose the help should be enlisted of scientific experts and practical workers who have taken part in carrying out the programme, having first analysed with great care and thus preserved for mankind the unique historical experience of the eradication of one of the most dangerous communicable diseases as a result of effective international cooperation, experience which will doubtless be used in programmes for the control of other communicable diseases;

May 1975 226, 26

WHA33.4 The Thirty-third World Health Assembly,

Having reviewed the report of the Global Commission for the Certification of Smallpox Eradication prepared in December 1979;¹

1. ENDORSES the conclusions of the Global Commission that smallpox eradication has been achieved throughout the world, as proclaimed in resolution WHA33.3, and that there is no evidence that smallpox will return as an endemic disease;

2. FURTHER ENDORSES the recommendations of the Global Commission on the policy for the post-eradication era, annexed to this resolution;

5. REQUESTS the Director-General to ensure the production, within a reasonable period of time, of appropriate publications describing smallpox and its eradication, in order to preserve the unique historical experience of eradication and thereby contribute to the development of other health programmes;

May 1980 WHA33/1980/REC/1, 2

¹ World Health Organization. *The global eradication of smallpox: final report of the Global Commission for the Certification of Smallpox Eradication*, Geneva, 1980.

See also recommendation 8 of the 1978 meeting of the Global Commission and recommendations 16 and 17 of the 1979 meeting, pages 164 and 166 respectively.

WHO OFFICIAL RECORDS SERIES

For previous resolutions, see Volume I, pages 180, 183 and 313.

EB60.R7 The Executive Board,

Having considered the report of its Ad Hoc Committee on Documentation and Languages of the Health Assembly and the Executive Board,¹ established in accordance with resolution EB59.R17;²

I

II

Conscious of the need to cut down all avoidable and non-essential expenditure in accordance with resolution WHA29.48;^{1, 4}

RECOMMENDS to the Health Assembly:

- (1) the replacement of the present *Official Records* series by a number of separate volumes;
- (2) the consequent amendment of Rule 95 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly, by the deletion of the words: "in the *Official Records* of the Organization";

III

May 1977 **242**, 8

¹ WHO Official Records, No. 242, 1977, p. 19.

² See p. 250.

³ See p. 12.

⁴ The text of the paragraphs that followed was the same as that of the corresponding paragraphs of resolution WHA31.13.

WHA31.13¹ The Thirty-first World Health Assembly,

Having considered resolution EB60.R7 of the Executive Board and the report of the Board's Ad Hoc Committee on Documentation and Languages of the Health Assembly and the Executive Board;²

I

II

Conscious of the need to cut out all avoidable and non-essential expenditure in accordance with resolution WHA29.48;³

Being informed that certain savings could be achieved by issuing in nonserial form the volumes that at present form the *Official Records* series, since this would make possible a less extensive free distribution outside the Organization;

Convinced that the issue of a number of separate volumes would fulfil the same purpose as the *Official Records* series, and would continue to meet the needs of Member States;

DECIDES:

- (1) that the present *Official Records* series shall be replaced by a number of separate volumes;
- (2) that Rule 95 of the Rules of Procedure of the Health Assembly shall be amended by the deletion of the words: "in the *Official Records* of the Organization";

III

May 1978 **247**, 7

¹ See WHO Official Records, No. 247, 1978, p. 56.

² WHO Official Records, No. 242, 1977, p. 19.

³ See p. 12.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

For resolutions and decisions on other publications of the Organization, see:

Volume II
page

Report of the Director-General on the Work of WHO	46
Reports on the World Health Situation	55
International Classification of Diseases	59
International Digest of Health Legislation	62

and

Volume I
page

Bulletin of the World Health Organization	} 181
WHO Chronicle	
WHO Technical Report Series	} 183
Epidemiological publications	
Handbook of Resolutions and Decisions	

Resolutions on the documentation of the Health Assembly and the Executive Board are to be found on page 249.

1.17.2 HEALTH LITERATURE SERVICES

For resolutions on this subject, see Volume I, page 177.

For the purchase of medical literature through the Revolving Fund for Teaching and Laboratory Equipment for Medical Education and Training, see resolutions EB51.R32 and WHA26.25, page 310 of this volume.

1.17.3 TERMINOLOGY

WHA29.65 The Twenty-ninth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the valuable contribution of international organizations to the unification of standards for measurement in all branches of science;

Recognizing the importance of uniform standards and terminology for scientific communication and the international exchange of information;

Welcoming the current move to greater uniformity of standards and units of measurement throughout the world;

Mindful nevertheless of the difficulties that might arise through too precipitate introduction into medical practice of certain units of the *Système international d'Unités* (SI), such as the substitution of the pascal for the millimetre of mercury in the measurement of blood pressure;

REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to study this matter, and the possible effects of the proposed changes on the international exchange of health information, together with other international organizations as may be appropriate;

(2) to report thereon to the Thirtieth World Health Assembly.

May 1976 233, 42

WHA30.39 The Thirtieth World Health Assembly.

Having considered the report of the Director-General¹ submitted in accordance with resolution WHA29.65;

Noting the wide endorsement that has been given by international scientific organizations to the *Système international d'Unités* (SI) developed by the *Conférence générale des Poids et Mesures*, the intergovernmental body responsible for units of measurement;

Noting further that the change to the use of SI units in medicine has already taken place or is now under way in several countries;

Mindful nevertheless of the confusion that can arise if new units of measurement are introduced without adequate preparation;

1. RECOMMENDS the adoption of the SI by the entire scientific community, and particularly the medical community throughout the world;

2. RECOMMENDS that, to minimize any confusion due to the simultaneous use of more than one system of units, the period of transition to the new system should not be unduly prolonged;

3. RECOMMENDS that, in addition to the scale in kilopascals, the millimetre (or centimetre) of mercury and the centimetre of water be retained for the time being on the scales of instruments for the measurement of the pressure of body fluids, pending wider adoption of the use of the pascal in other fields;

4. RECOMMENDS that, in making the change, institutions, scientific associations, and the like secure the best available advice and information, and give their personnel or members a course of intensive instruction in the theory and application of the SI prior to the time when the change takes effect;

5. RECOMMENDS that all medical schools, and schools providing training in disciplines related to medicine, include courses on the theory and use of the SI in their curricula;

6. REQUESTS the Director-General to assist the change by preparing a succinct, simple, and authoritative account of the SI that could be made available to Member States, medical associations, and medical journals.²

May 1977 240, 21

¹ This report contained the following paragraphs:

"When chemical substances interact, either *in vitro* or *in vivo*, the proportions in which they do so are related to their relative molecular mass ('molecular weight'). This is measured in terms of 'amount of substance' by means of the mole. For a proper understanding of chemical reactions, therefore, whether they occur in the laboratory or in the body, the use of the mole is essential. The use of mass units

(such as milligrams per litre) serves no purpose other than the purely arbitrary one of deciding whether or not a given value is greater or less than a certain reference value. The expression of concentrations of substances in body fluids in molecular terms also serves this purpose, but in addition gives valuable insight into the balance of the constituents. Such insight cannot be obtained from mass units.

"The use of the mole for the reporting of values in clinical chemistry has been endorsed by virtually all the relevant international organizations, including the International Committee for Standardization in Hematology, the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry, the International Union of Biochemistry, and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (Section on Clinical Chemistry). For the past five years or so it has been used in WHO publications."

Operative paragraph 1 of the resolution should therefore be considered as endorsing the expression of concentration in terms of the mole and *not* in terms of mass units.

² See World Health Organization. *The SI for the health professions*. Geneva, 1977, updated and reprinted, 1982.

WHA34.27 The Thirty-fourth World Health Assembly.

Having considered the international difficulties being encountered in attempting to introduce the kilopascal, a unit of the *Système international d'unités* (SI), for the measurement of blood pressure;

Noting the attitudes and resolutions of international scientific bodies objecting to the precipitate replacement of the millimetre of mercury by the kilopascal;

Further noting with concern the ensuing difficulties encountered in communication between the scientific community and the population in a number of Member States;

Mindful, nevertheless, of the desirability of a unified international system of units as expressed in earlier resolutions;

Considering the prevalence of hypertension, its deleterious effect, and the high probability of preventing it by early screening;

Recalling the caution expressed in resolutions WHA29.65 and WHA30.39 regarding the difficulties that might arise through the precipitate introduction into medical practice of certain units of the SI, with particular reference to the substitution of the kilopascal for the millimetre of mercury in the measurement of blood pressure;

1. CONSIDERS that there is no compelling need to replace the millimetre of mercury by the kilopascal in medical practice at the present time;

2. RECOMMENDS that the millimetre of mercury and the kilopascal be used simultaneously until a future Health Assembly considers the retention of the millimetre of mercury unnecessary for the undisturbed delivery of health care and the interchange of scientific information;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General to draw attention to the present resolution in the Organization's journals as well as through the media of the relevant nongovernmental organizations.

May 1981 WHA34/1981/REC/1, 28