

## **Health of migrants**

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report on health of migrants,<sup>1</sup>

RECOMMENDS to the Sixty-first World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Sixty-first World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on health of migrants;

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolution 58/208 underlining the need for a high-level dialogue on the multidimensional aspects of international migration and development (New York, 23 December 2003);

Recalling the first plenary session of the United Nations General Assembly on migration issues and the conclusions of the High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development (New York, 14–15 September 2006) with their focus on ways to maximize the development benefits of migration and to minimize its negative impacts;

Recognizing that the revised International Health Regulations (2005) include provisions relating to international passenger transport;

Recalling resolutions WHA57.19 and WHA58.17 on international migration of health personnel: a challenge for health systems in developing countries, calling for support to the strengthening of health systems, in particular human resources for health;

Recognizing the need for WHO to consider the health needs of migrants in the framework of the broader agenda on migration and development;

Recognizing that health outcomes can be influenced by the multiple dimensions of migration;

Noting that some groups of migrants experience increased health risks;

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<sup>1</sup> Document EB122/11.

Recognizing the need for additional data on migrants' health and their access to health care to substantiate evidence based policies;

Taking into account the determinants of migrants' health in developing intersectoral policies to protect their health;

Mindful of the role of health in promoting social inclusion;

Acknowledging that the health of migrants is an important public health matter both for Member States and for the work of the Secretariat;

Noting that Member States have need to formulate and implement strategies for improving the health of migrants;

Noting that policies addressing migrants' health should be sensitive to the specific health needs of women, men and children;

Recognizing that health policies can contribute to development and to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

1. CALLS UPON Member States:

- (1) to promote migrant-sensitive health policies;
- (2) to promote equitable access to health promotion and care for migrants, subject to national laws and practice, and devise mechanisms for enhancing the health of migrants;
- (3) to assess and analyse trends in migrants' health, disaggregating health information by relevant categories;
- (4) to better identify the gaps in service delivery in order to improve the health of all populations, including migrants;
- (5) to gather, document and share information and best practices for meeting migrants' health needs in countries of origin or return, transit and destination;
- (6) to raise health service providers' and professionals' cultural and gender sensitivity to migrants' health issues;
- (7) to train health professionals to deal with the health issues associated with population movements;
- (8) to promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation on migrants' health among countries involved in the whole migratory process;
- (9) to promote strengthening of health systems in developing countries;
- (10) to contribute to the reduction of the global deficit of health professionals and its consequences on the sustainability of health systems and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to promote migrants' health on the international health agenda in collaboration with other relevant international organizations;
- (2) to explore policy options and approaches for improving the health of migrants;
- (3) to analyse the major challenges to health associated with migration;
- (4) to support the development of regional and national assessments of migrants' health status and access to health care;
- (5) to promote the inclusion of migrants' health in the development of regional and national health strategies where appropriate;
- (6) to help collect and disseminate data on migrants' health;
- (7) to promote dialogue and cooperation on migrants' health among all Member States involved in the migratory process, within the framework of the implementation of their health strategies;
- (8) to promote interagency, interregional and international cooperation on migrants' health with an emphasis on developing partnerships with other organizations and considering the impact of other policies;
- (9) to encourage the exchange of information through a technical network of collaborating centres, academic institutions and other key partners in order to further research into migrants' health and to enhance capacity for technical cooperation;
- (10) to submit to the Sixty-third World Health Assembly, through the Executive Board, a report on the implementation of this resolution.

Seventh meeting, 24 January 2008  
EB122/SR/7

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