

FORTY-FIFTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, GENEVA, 4-14 MAY 199
WHA45.35 Global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS

The Forty-fifth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Director-General on the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS;

Recalling resolutions [WHA40.26](#), [WHA41.24](#), [WHA42.33](#), [WHA42.34](#) and [WHA43.10](#), as well as United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/203;

Acknowledging the leading role of WHO in the guidance and coordination of AIDS control, prevention, care, research activities and support to those who are ill and their families;

Expressing appreciation to all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and the many nongovernmental organizations concerned, for their active collaboration in support of the global AIDS strategy;

Recognizing with concern that the pandemic is spreading rapidly in developing countries and continuing to increase in urban areas of some industrialized countries, especially in populations with high rates of injecting drug use and sexually transmitted diseases; that heterosexual transmission is increasing throughout the world which means that an increasing number of women and children are becoming infected; that an increasing burden is being placed on already strained health services; and that a multisectoral response is required to reduce the further spread of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and AIDS and to mitigate the social and economic consequences of the pandemic;

Recognizing that there is no public health rationale for any measures that limit the rights of the individual, notably measures establishing mandatory screening;

Recognizing the importance of decentralization of the implementation of the global AIDS strategy from the national to the district and community level,

1. ENDORSES the updated global AIDS strategy, proposing the following essential ways to meet the new challenges of the evolving pandemic: better prevention and treatment programmes for other sexually transmitted diseases; greater focus on prevention of HIV infection through improvement of women's health, education and status; a social environment giving more support to prevention programmes; greater emphasis on the public health dangers of stigmatization of people known to be or suspected of being infected, and of discrimination against them; and increasing emphasis on care;

2. CALLS UPON Member States:

- (1) to intensify national AIDS prevention efforts, with commitment and leadership at the highest political level;
- (2) to adopt the updated global AIDS strategy as the basis for their control efforts, paying particular attention to action directed at women, children and adolescents;
- (3) to ensure close coordination or, where appropriate, integration of activities for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and of other sexually transmitted diseases

- (4) to improve measures for the prevention of HIV infection due to blood and blood products, by promoting transfusion services that provide for the screening of all blood donations, counselling and guidance and other preventive elements;
- (5) to mobilize national resources and ensure a multisectoral response to the pandemic, including efforts to reduce its further spread, e.g. by promoting safer sexual behaviour, and to mitigate its social and economic consequences by involving all sectors of government and key elements in society such as community groups and religious and other community leaders;
- (6) to reinforce efforts to oppose discrimination against persons and specific groups known to be or suspected of being HIV-infected; and to ensure a humanitarian response of governments and individuals to people with HIV/AIDS and that public health is not undermined by discrimination and stigmatization;
- (7) to overcome denial of the magnitude of the pandemic and complacency about the need to take urgent and intensive action against HIV/AIDS;
- (8) to stress the importance of educating health professionals, especially nurses and midwives, and provide counselling and support services to those who give care to AIDS patients;

3. APPEALS to bilateral and multilateral agencies, as well as nongovernmental and voluntary organizations, to intensify their activities in support of prevention and care in the worldwide struggle against HIV/AIDS in conformity with the updated global AIDS strategy and to mobilize human, financial and moral resources;

4. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to advocate vigorously the commitment of decision-makers to developing programmes of action and mobilizing the national and international resources required to sustain efforts for prevention, care and research and to support activities to reduce the socioeconomic impact of HIV/AIDS;
- (2) to ensure that the updated global AIDS strategy is effectively supported and implemented at all levels of the Organization, and to reinforce WHO's support to Member States in the implementation of their national AIDS programmes;
- (3) to intensify efforts to prevent HIV infection in women, adolescents and children and to protect women and the young from the impact of the pandemic;
- (4) to stress the importance of a multisectoral response to the AIDS pandemic by all sectors of government, including efforts to reduce its further spread and its individual, social and economic consequences;
- (5) to maintain close collaboration with organizations of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, providing leadership to ensure that their support to governments is coordinated and contributes to that response, especially at country level under the framework of the WHO/UNDP Alliance to combat AIDS;
- (6) to strengthen the development and evaluation of interventions to improve strategies for gender-specific prevention as well as strategies for care in national AIDS programmes;

- (7) to pursue activities currently under way to assist countries in monitoring, evaluating and demonstrating the effectiveness of their programmes;
- (8) to intensify biomedical, epidemiological and social science research throughout the world, and to support vaccine and drug trials, especially in developing countries, while strengthening training for research workers in those countries;
- (9) to continue negotiations with the pharmaceutical industry and its partners in order to facilitate access to affordable vaccines and drugs when they become available, for people in need;
- (10) to continue efforts to oppose discrimination against people with HIV infection and encourage respect for their rights;
- (11) to support countries in their efforts to formulate policies, regulations, laws and practices to protect those rights.

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– Committee B, fifth report)