EXPANDED PROGRAMME ON IMMUNIZATION

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report of the Director-General on the Expanded Programme on Immunization;¹

(1) ENDORSES the recommendations for action contained in that report;

(2) RECOMMENDS to the Thirty-ninth World Health Assembly the adoption of the following resolution:

The Thirty-ninth World Health Assembly,

Noting the report of the Director-General on the Expanded Programme on Immunization and the Executive Board's discussion of the report;

Noting further the general recommendations for action contained in the Director-General's report, which emphasize the need to accelerate progress, furthering the five-point action programme endorsed by the Thirty-Fifth World Health Assembly by: promoting the achievement of the 1990 goal through collaboration among ministries, organizations and individuals in both the public and private sector to create effective consumer demand and ensure that this demand is met; adopting a mix of complementary strategies for programme acceleration; and ensuring that rapid increases in coverage can be sustained through mechanisms which strengthen the delivery of other primary health care interventions;

Noting also the recommendations for specific actions contained in the Director-General's report, which call for: providing immunization at every contact point, reducing drop-out rates between first and last immunizations, improving immunization services to the disadvantaged in urban areas and increasing the priority for the control of measles, poliomyelitis and neonatal tetanus;

Recognizing that continued efforts are also required to strengthen disease surveillance and outbreak control, reinforce training and supervision, ensure the quality of vaccine production, management and administration, and pursue research and development;

1. AFFIRMS that the EPI goal of reducing morbidity and mortality by providing immunization for all children of the world by 1990 remains a global priority and represents a milestone toward achieving health for all by the year 2000;

2. WARNS that the goal will not be achieved without continuing acceleration of national programmes;
3. URGES Member States to pursue vigorously the recommendations for action contained in the Director-General's report and to commit themselves fully to achieving the 1990 immunization goal as part of their strategies for achieving health for all by the year 2000 through primary health care;

4. CALLS on organizations of the United Nations system to support the Expanded Programme on Immunization in the context of United Nations General Assembly resolution 34/58, which endorsed the Declaration of Alma-Ata, welcomed the efforts of WHO and UNICEF to attain health for all by the year 2000, and called upon the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to cooperate with WHO and support its efforts by appropriate actions within their respective spheres of competence;

5. NOTES with appreciation the increased international support for immunization programmes being provided particularly by UNICEF and by national development agencies, private and voluntary organizations and individuals, whose collective efforts are helping to bring the immunization goal within reach;

6. URGES that such international support should be further increased;

7. REMINDS Member States and collaborating organizations that the 1990 goal establishes a basis for immunization coverage, which must be sustained indefinitely;

8. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to strengthen the coordinating role of the World Health Organization to help ensure that immunization programmes continue to be carried out in consonance with the relevant policies of the World Health Assembly, and in particular the policy of attaining health for all (through primary health care);

(2) further to increase collaboration with Member States in order to meet the 1990 goal, with special emphasis on achieving reductions in the target diseases and on training, evaluation and the improvement of national, regional and global systems for monitoring progress;

(3) to pursue basic and applied research relevant to the field of immunization and to make the results known in good time to Member States;

(4) to continue to keep the Health Assembly informed of the progress of the programme and to propose the necessary means to achieve the 1990 goal.