

Implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)

The Sixty-first World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005);

Recalling resolution WHA58.3 on revision of the International Health Regulations, which decided that the Sixty-first World Health Assembly would consider the schedule for the submission of further reports by States Parties and the Director-General on the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) and the first review of their functioning, pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 54 of the Regulations;

Underscoring the importance of establishing a schedule to review and evaluate the functioning of Annex 2, pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 54 of the International Health Regulations (2005);

Mindful of the request to the Director-General in resolution WHA59.2 on application of the International Health Regulations (2005) to report to the Sixtieth World Health Assembly and annually thereafter on progress achieved in providing support to Member States on compliance with, and implementation of, the International Health Regulations (2005);

Recognizing the need to rationalize reporting on all aspects of implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) in order to facilitate the work of the Health Assembly,

1. REAFFIRMS its commitment to implement fully the International Health Regulations (2005) in accordance with the purpose and scope set out in Article 2 and the principles embodied in Article 3 of the Regulations;

2. DECIDES:

(1) in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 54 of the International Health Regulations (2005), that States Parties and the Director-General shall report to the Health Assembly on the implementation of the Regulations annually, with the next report to be submitted to the Sixty-second World Health Assembly;

(2) in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 54 of the International Health Regulations (2005), that the first review of the functioning of the Regulations shall be made by the Sixty-third World Health Assembly;

(3) in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 54 of the International Health Regulations (2005), that the first review and evaluation of the functioning of Annex 2 shall be submitted to the Sixty-second World Health Assembly for its consideration;

3. URGES Member States:

(1) to ensure that the contact details of the centre that has been designated as the National IHR Focal Point are complete and up to date and to encourage relevant staff within the centre to access and use the Event Information Site on the WHO web site;

(2) to take steps to ensure that the national core capacity requirements specified in Annex 1 to the Regulations are developed, strengthened and maintained, in accordance with Articles 5 and 13 of the International Health Regulations (2005);

(3) to designate an expert, if they have not already done so, for the IHR Roster of Experts, in accordance with Article 47 of the International Health Regulations (2005);

(4) to continue to support each other and collaborate with WHO in the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005), in accordance with resolution WHA58.3 and relevant provisions of those Regulations;

4. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to submit every year a single report, including information provided by States Parties and about the Secretariat's activities, to the Health Assembly for its consideration, pursuant to paragraph 1 of Article 54 of the International Health Regulations (2005);

(2) to provide support to Member States with the most vulnerable health systems in strengthening core capacity requirements for surveillance and response at airports, ports and ground crossings, paying special attention to the sub-Saharan Africa laboratory network;

(3) to encourage efforts to ensure effective communication between National IHR focal points concomitant with the communications with WHO IHR contact points and encourage the sharing of information on the state of actual outbreaks in order to facilitate alert and appropriate response activities for the prevention and control of infectious diseases across borders.

Seventh plenary meeting, 23 May 2008
A61/VR/7

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