



EUROPE

Regional Committee for Europe Fifty-third session

Vienna, 8–11 September 2003

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Resolution

The health of children and adolescents in WHO's European Region

The Regional Committee,

Recalling the World Health Assembly's resolution WHA56.21 on the strategy for child and adolescent health;

Recognizing the right of children and adolescents to the highest attainable standard of health and access to health care, as set forth in internationally agreed human rights instruments;

Recognizing that the future health and prosperity of the Region will be determined to a large extent by the investments made in the children and adolescents of today;

Acknowledging that healthy children are more likely to become healthy adults and that in turn healthy adults are assets in the creation of a more socially and economically productive society, and will make fewer demands upon the health system;

Conscious of the fact that health is determined by the physical, economic, social, family and educational environment, as well as by the quality of health care provision, and that children and adolescents need a supportive environment in which to grow and develop into healthy young adults;

Mindful of the many threats to the health of children and adolescents, from which no society, rich or poor, is immune;

Welcoming the comprehensive efforts already made by the specialized agencies of the United Nations system to improve the health of children and adolescents;

Having reviewed document EUR/RC53/11;

1. URGES Member States to give high priority to making improvements in children's and adolescents' health and development, including physical activity and mental health, through advocacy at the highest level, scaling up programmes, increasing the allocation of national resources, creating partnerships and ensuring sustained political commitment;
2. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
 - (a) to continue the process of preparing a comprehensive European strategy on the health of children and adolescents, in collaboration with Member States, and to present it to the Regional Committee at its fifty-fifth session;
 - (b) to ensure that the outcomes of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (Budapest, 23–25 June 2004) and the special section on the health of children and adolescents in The European health report 2005 are taken fully into account during that process.