



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
COPENHAGEN

REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE
Fifty-first session, Madrid, 10 – 13 September 2001

RESOLUTION

EUR/RC51/R7
12 September 2001
10645M
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

HEALTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Regional Committee,

Being aware of the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as decided by United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/55/199 (December 2000);

Recalling that Agenda 21 (the global programme of action on sustainable development) *inter alia* highlights the importance of protecting and promoting human health and invites countries to develop plans for priority actions in programme areas such as (a) meeting primary health care needs, (b) control of communicable diseases, (c) protecting vulnerable groups, (d) meeting the urban health challenge and (e) reducing health risks from environmental pollution and hazards;

Noting the European Regional Ministerial Meeting, which is scheduled to be held in Geneva on 24 and 25 September 2001, to review progress made since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 and to outline key policy issues, priorities and follow-up, in order to provide input to the preparatory process for the World Summit in Johannesburg (South Africa) in September 2002;

Recognizing that health has become a major central concern in development, both as a contributor to and as an indicator of sustainable development;

Stressing that protecting and promoting health are central to the entire process of poverty eradication and human development;

Recognizing that many health problems will continue to be exacerbated by air pollution, including environmental tobacco smoke, noise, inadequate water and sanitation, improper waste disposal, chemical or radioactive contamination, poisonings, crowding and physical hazards associated with the growth of densely populated cities, and that climate change may have profound long-term health consequences;

Believing that the Fourth European Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, scheduled to be convened in 2004 in Hungary, will serve as a catalyst for further actions;

1. URGES Member States:

(a) to actively involve the health sector in national preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

(b) to address in the preparatory process the multiple linkages between health, the environment and development, and in particular the linkages between health and poverty alleviation;

(c) to also address the underlying determinants of health in order to ensure sustainable development and sustained health improvements;

2. REQUESTS the Regional Director to take into consideration the recommendations and conclusions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development when presenting to the Regional Committee in 2002 for approval the preliminary agenda, drafted by the European Environment and Health Committee, of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health.