



FIFTY-SIXTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

WHA56.24

Agenda item 14.15

28 May 2003

Implementing the recommendations of the *World report on violence and health*

The Fifty-sixth World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolution WHA49.25, which declared violence a leading worldwide public health problem, and resolution WHA50.19, which endorsed and requested continued development of the WHO plan of action for a science-based public health approach to violence prevention and health;

Noting that a meeting of bodies of the United Nations system on collaboration for the prevention of interpersonal violence (Geneva, 15-16 November 2001) invited WHO to facilitate a better coordinated response to interpersonal violence, as a result of which WHO published the *Guide to United Nations resources and activities for the prevention of interpersonal violence*,¹

Recalling that WHO is a core partner, with UNICEF and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, of a working group to support the United Nations Study on Violence against Children, and that WHO is active in the prevention of violence against young people, women, the disabled and the elderly;

Recognizing that the prevention of violence is a prerequisite of human security and dignity and that urgent action by governments is needed to prevent all forms of violence and reduce their consequences for health and for socioeconomic development;

Noting that the *World report on violence and health*² provides an up-to-date description of the impact of violence on public health, reviews its determinants and effective interventions, and makes recommendations for public health policy and programmes,

1. TAKES NOTE of the nine recommendations for prevention of violence contained in the *World report on violence and health* and set out in the Annex to this resolution, and encourages Member States to consider adopting them;

¹ *Guide to United Nations resources and activities for the prevention of interpersonal violence*, Geneva, World Health Organization, 2002.

² *World report on violence and health*, Geneva, World Health Organization, 2002.

2. URGES Member States to promote the *World report on violence and health* and actively to make use of the conclusions and recommendations of the report to improve activities to prevent and expose instances of violence, and to provide medical, psychological, social and legal assistance and rehabilitation for persons suffering as a result of violence;
3. ENCOURAGES all Member States that have not already done so to appoint within the ministry of health a focal point for the prevention of violence;
4. ENCOURAGES Member States to prepare in due time a report on violence and violence prevention that describes the magnitude of the problem, the risk factors, current efforts to prevent violence, and future action to encourage a multisectoral response;
5. REQUESTS the Director-General:
 - (1) to cooperate with Member States in establishing science-based public health policies and programmes for the implementation of measures to prevent violence and to mitigate its consequences at individual and societal levels;
 - (2) to encourage urgent research to support evidence-based approaches for prevention of violence and mitigation of its consequences at individual, family and societal levels, particularly research on multilevel risk factors for violence, and evaluation of model prevention programmes;
 - (3) in collaboration with other organizations of the United Nations system and other international agencies, to continue work on integrating a science-based public health approach to violence prevention into other major global prevention initiatives;
 - (4) using the resources available and benefiting from opportunities for cooperation:
 - (a) to support and coordinate efforts to draw up or revise normative documents and guidelines for prevention policy and programmes, as appropriate;
 - (b) to provide technical support for strengthening of trauma and care services to survivors or victims of violence;
 - (c) to continue advocating the adoption and expansion of a public health response to all forms of violence;
 - (d) to establish networks to promote the integrated prevention of violence and injuries;
6. FURTHER REQUESTS the Director-General to report to the Fifty-eighth World Health Assembly, through the Executive Board, on progress towards implementing the *World report on violence and health*.

ANNEX

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE

1. Create, implement and monitor a national action plan for violence prevention.
2. Enhance capacity for collecting data on violence.
3. Define priorities for, and support research on, the causes, consequences, costs and prevention of violence.
4. Promote primary prevention responses.
5. Strengthen responses for victims of violence.
6. Integrate violence prevention into social and educational policies, and thereby promote gender and social equality.
7. Increase collaboration and exchange of information on violence prevention.
8. Promote and monitor adherence to international treaties, laws and other mechanisms to protect human rights.
9. Seek practical, internationally agreed responses to the global drugs trade and the global arms trade.

Tenth plenary meeting, 28 May 2003
A56/VR/10

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