

AMWHO

Regional Block: European Region

Topic: Communicable Diseases and Preventative Measures in Times of Conflict

Sponsors: Russian Federation, Republic of Turkey, United Kingdom, Federal Republic of Germany, Kingdom of Spain

Signatories: Sweden, Ireland, France, Norway, Portugal, France, Bulgaria

Humanitarian Index Score: 33%

- 1 The General Assembly,
2
3 *Recalling* the Constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO), which asserts that health is
4 defined as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence
5 of disease or infirmity,
6
7 *Acknowledging* the important role of the European region in establishing precedence on the
8 confrontation of communicable disease and sustainable preventative measures in response to
9 ongoing global burden from communicable diseases,
10
11 *Reaffirming* the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that health is a
12 universal human right irrespective of race, gender, religion, political affiliation, economic or
13 social condition,
14
15 *Reaffirming* also the principles of the World Health Assembly (WHA) report on *Health in the*
16 *post-2015 UN Development Agenda*, which anticipate the need to accelerate efforts toward
17 improving health in areas of conflict and humanitarian crises,
18 areas during times of conflict and the inability of these systems to adequately address the health
19 needs of affected populations,
20
21 *Bearing in mind* that health is a global issue that transcends political and geographic borders, and
22 recognizing the needs for long-term, sustainable solutions and international cooperation in the
23 area of public health,
24
25
26 1. *Calls* upon nations to strengthen their response to health needs in times of conflict by:
27 a) facilitating cooperation between national departments of health and local healthcare
28 agencies,
29 b) facilitating cooperation between national departments of health and relevant non-
30 governmental organizations,
31 c) encouraging national departments of health to foster relationships with the following
32 World Health Organization committees in order to better assess and respond to health
33 crises in times of conflict:
34 i. the WHO Unit on Disease Control in Humanitarian Emergencies
35 ii. the WHO Communicable Diseases Working Group on Emergencies
36 iii. the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination system;

- 37 2. *Encourages* the implementation of a framework through which elected liaisons, to be chosen
38 at the discretion of their national sponsors, in order to facilitate cooperation between national
39 governments and the above stated organizations by:
- 40 a) Drafting regular reports as to the state of preparedness in said nation which would in
41 turn be reviewed by regional WHO departments in order to assess the preparedness of
42 each nation in the event of a conflict,
 - 43 b) Creating proposals that would seek to compensate for the failure of governmental or
44 state healthcare systems in the event of a crisis by strengthening partnerships with local
45 and regional healthcare systems,
 - 46 c) Implementing a plan of action which would allow local and relevant NGOs to act
47 quickly and efficiently in the event of a crisis,
 - 48 d) Specifically targeting the needs of vulnerable and at-risk populations including but not
49 limited to women, children, those with disabilities, and the economically disadvantaged;
- 50 3. *Recommends* that regional and local systems of health bolster their efforts to cooperate in
51 times of crises in order to create a framework for better addressing health needs at times when
52 national healthcare systems are unable or unequipped to do so;
- 53 4. *Requests* that each nation work in cooperation with local leaders to empower domestic
54 community healthcare workers, in cooperation with relevant governmental and non-
55 governmental organizations, who can be mobilized to address the health needs of isolated or
56 remote areas which are cut off from national systems of health or international aid agencies in
57 times of conflict.