

# WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

WHA/II/1

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)  
SUBMITTED TO: World Health Assembly  
SUBMITTED BY: Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Ghana, China

*World Health Assembly*

1            *Reaffirming* World Health Assembly (WHA) resolution 55.14 on global health security and  
2            WHA resolution 56.29 of 28 May 2003, which encourages all nations to utilize their experiences with  
3            SARS as contributing lessons that can improve their preparedness for responding to emerging  
4            infectious diseases and provide guidance in mitigating the effects of such epidemics on public health,  
5            economic, and social matters,

6            *Expressing* with deep appreciation, the international community for its perseverance and  
7            immediate response to mitigating the threat of SARS,

8            *Recognizing* the importance of international cooperation and working in eliminating SARS and  
9            other potential pandemics from spreading throughout the global community,

10           *Deeply concerned* that SARS will resurge in the upcoming winter season, requiring Member  
11           States to exchange information on their contingency plans and continue sharing essential data on  
12           counter-SARS efforts through quarterly conferences,

13           *Realizing* the need for Member States to take preemptive and preventive measures to eliminate  
14           future pandemic breakouts by implementing programs that will further advance the use of technology in  
15           the health care system,

16           *Convinced* that with mutual support and cooperation, the international community can and will  
17           strengthen its health care system, which will ultimately eliminate SARS,

18           1. *Strongly encourages* Member States to implement and adhere to the World Health  
19           Organization (WHO) policy when reporting communicable diseases of pandemic proportion not only to  
20           mitigate the outbreak but as well as to minimize the numbers of deaths and infected persons,

21           2. *Calls upon* all member states to adhere strictly to WHA 54.14 and WHA 56.29, which calls  
22           for all states to fully comply with guidelines and regulations set by the WHO in ensuring global health  
23           security,

24 3. *Reaffirms* the importance of continuing the integration of the global community so that the  
25 Member States can take self-initiative actions such as, continuing health screenings at all international  
26 entry points, including airports, sea ports and borders without discriminating against persons who are  
27 infected with SARS or any other transmittable diseases,

28 4. *Endorses* resolution WHA 54.14 A56/48 and resolution WHA 56.28, which emphasizes the  
29 ability for Member States needing assistance in medical resources and financial assistance in  
30 communicable disease prevention, eradication, control, and surveillance, to request to the WHO for  
31 such aid, as an incentive to report the disease as quickly as possible,

32 5. *Urges* all nations to expand and enhance, to the highest level possible, the health monitoring  
33 systems, by developing or improving current national programs for disease control such as the Centers  
34 for Disease Control (CDC),

35 6. *Further recommends* all Member States:

36 (a) to sustain current global containment measures and protocols of SARS and other pandemics  
37 to prevent their spread;

38 (b) to support and participate in the development of an international center for disease control  
39 with up to date technology that can offer an immediate response in containing emerging pandemics or  
40 any other forms of communicable diseases;

41 (c) to continue updating and reiterating guidelines on surveillance of transmittable diseases;

42 (d) to continue full support of the WHO Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network;

43 (e) to work collectively with appropriate committees within the WHO and the Centers for  
44 Disease Control (CDC) in establishing a network for disease surveillance that will be available to each  
45 nation in their native language;

46 (f) to collaborate with Member States in their efforts to organize financial, human, and  
47 technological resources in enhancing the global systems for epidemiological surveillance;

48 (g) to establish and designate quarantine medical facilities in any area where communicable  
49 disease outbreaks are identified;

50 (h) to ensure proper information and education about any outbreaks through local organized  
51 comprehensive seminars;

52 (i) to implement a regulated policy for airlines in conjunction with the International Civil  
53 Aviation Organization to regularly change and monitor their internal air circulation filtering system  
54 aboard aircrafts;

55 7. *Encourages* all Member States to adhere to the above states recommendations and report to  
56 the Secretary General of ongoing progress.

57 8. *Encourages* the Economic and Social Committee to consider extending aid to those countries  
58 who wish to build up their infrastructure in order to prevent the emergence and spread of communicable

59 diseases; additionally asks that the Commission on Sustainable Development consider the issue of  
60 communicable diseases as one that is strongly influenced by nations' state of development.

Final Vote: 45 - 2 - 4