

WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

The Fifty-Sixth World Health Assembly adopted the attached resolutions relating to the following agenda items:

1. Protection of Medical Missions during Armed Conflict

1.1 International Humanitarian Law: Protection of medical mission personnel under protected emblems

Resolution WHA/I/1 urges member states to participate in the efforts to hold parties of armed conflict responsible for their actions against medical and humanitarian missions, neutrality of medical missions, review of the 1949 First Geneva Convention, monitoring, education, and enforcement of the emblems under the protection of the Geneva Convention, and finally the defendant may choose between the ICC or an Ad Hoc tribunal, within 6 months of the violation or the case will default to the ICC or Ad Hoc tribunal depending on whether the member state is a ratified party to the ICC.

1.2 International Humanitarian Law: Protecting medical mission personnel

Resolution WHA/I/2 calls upon member states to implement the International Humanitarian Laws with regard to medical and humanitarian personnel, children, and civilians, to make every effort to provide safety for medical missions while understanding the financial implications of doing so, to adhere to WHA55.13, to review the Geneva Conventions, finally the defendant may choose between the ICC or on a Ad Hoc tribunal, within 6 months of the incident or the case will default to the ICC or Ad Hoc tribunal depending on whether the member state is a ratified party to the ICC.

The reason for the similarity between the clauses requesting intervention by the ICC or Ad Hoc tribunals was because of the member states that are not ratified parties of the ICC but the countries that are ratified parties felt the need for there to be a way of holding all parties of armed conflict against medical missions accountable for their actions. The compromise was reached by a long discussion between these countries in a hope to foster and encourage the implementation of both of these resolutions. These Resolutions ask for similar ideas but not on the same topic.

2. Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

2.1 Prevention and Containment of SARS and Other Pandemic Diseases

Resolution WHA/II/1 requests member states to report communicable diseases of pandemic proportion to the WHO, to adhere to WHA54.14 and 56.29, to work as a global community so self-initiative action can be taken such as health screenings at international entry points, to endorse WHA 54.14 A56/48 and WHA 56.28 which is directed to member states who need assistance in medical resources, to expand and enhance the monitoring system for the state such as containment measures, to support the WHO Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network, to work with committees in the WHO to acquire information on diseases in the state s official native languages, education, and a regulated policy for airlines, and finally requests the Economic and Social Council to extent aid to countries that wish to expand medical infrastructure.

3. Southern African Humanitarian Crisis

3.1 Humanitarian Aid with a Focus on the Crises in Africa

Resolution WHA/III/1 requests member states to increase education about HIV/AIDS with assistance from non-governmental organizations while emphasizing cultural sensitivity, to foster communication between member states and patent holding companies about renegotiating drug prices, to emphasize the need for sustainable development, appropriate allocation of humanitarian aid and an increase in infrastructure with the assistance of stable governments and grass roots programs, hopes more attention will be given to suffering children and orphans with help of community programs and other related organizations, calls upon ECOSOC to supervise the use of humanitarian and financial aid, emphasizing the need for an increase in humanitarian aid in an attempt to foster development in African countries that are in an immediate need of food, supplies and other resources, suggests the use of medical related scholarships, promoted by non-governmental organization, that require recipients to practice in rural areas of Africa after receiving their education.

The reason for the clause concerning the patent on drugs; there was long negotiation in order to acquire a large portion of member states to agree. This topic was important to all countries due to the need for drugs in all countries. The compromise was that countries containing drug patents would negotiate the use and pricing of these drugs for the purpose of providing affordable drugs to African nations but not excluding other nation in the world.

4. Transparency in Tobacco Control

4.1 Tobacco Regulations and the Continuation of the UN Ad Hoc Task Force

Resolution WHA/IV/1 encourages member states to promote education about negative health effects of tobacco, to discourage promotion and advertisement of tobacco to youths, to recommend the continuation of the United Nations Ad Hoc Interagency Task Force on Tobacco Control specifically working with INTERPOL on smuggling, and addressing research on crop diversification and agricultural grants.