

RESOLUTION

RENEWING CALLS FOR A GLOBAL ACTION

Proposed by the Brazilian Association on Collective Health (ABRASCO)

THE WORLD FEDERATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATIONS

Geneva, Switzerland

May 18, 2008

Recognizing the Rio Declaration (August 2006) and recalling the thirty-two resolutions and two position papers adopted by WFPHA on its previous Assemblies⁽¹⁾ from 1978 to 2005, and considering:

- the contents, arguments and proposals stated in the position paper “Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Primary Health Care”, prepared by WFPHA for the International Conference on Primary Health Care, Alma-Ata, Kazakh SSR, September 6-12, 1978;
- the contents, arguments and role of the Public Health Movement addressed in the resolution “Public Health and Globalization”, proposed by the WFPHA Resolutions Committee at the 35th Annual Meeting, on May 14th, 2001;
- the contents, arguments and recommendations addressed in the resolution “Global Climate Change”, proposed by the WFPHA Resolutions Committee at the 35th Annual Meeting, on May 14th, 2001;
- the contents, arguments and requests stated in the resolution “Access to Essential Medicines, the Need for Fair Prices, and Better Research”, adopted by WFPHA annual meeting in Brighton, on April 19th, 2004;
- the contents, arguments and requests stated in the resolution “Health and International Trade Agreements”, adopted by WFPHA Annual Meeting in Brighton, on April 19th, 2004;

considering finally

- the 30th Anniversary of the International Conference on Primary Care and the Alma Ata Declaration (Alma Ata, Kazakh SSR, September 6-12, 1978)

The WFPHA calls again for the commitment and involvement of Governments and Civil Societies organizations with issues of health and development. “Access to effective health care is a fundamental human right and a precondition to social and economic development. All social inequalities in access to health care should be eliminated.” (Rio Declaration, August 2006). The historical role and mission of the Governments and global Society within all the stages in the development of primary health care programs must be effective.

The WFPHA recognizes that the efforts to reduce the damages to living beings and consequences of the accelerated climate change are far from reaching their goals. The WFPHA recognizes the urgent need for a global recall-for-action and reinforces and renews its resolution on “Global Climate Change” proposed by the WFPHA Resolutions Committee at the 35th Annual Meeting, on May 14th 2001. WFPHA invites all its members and partners to develop and disseminate the actions addressed to reduce the impact of climate change.

The WFPHA expresses deep concern about the increasing and continuous impact of globalization on the deterioration of the health situation and quality of life of the people. “Globalization, which has a potential to break down social, economic and political barriers, has unfortunately produced a vicious cycle, where inequity between and within nations has increased, leading in turn to increased poverty and exclusion, worsened living conditions and, finally, overall poor health. This places an increased burden on the underprivileged, furthering the inequities and repeating the whole cycle. In particular, this threatens the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals.” (Rio Declaration, August 2006).

“Good health in all parts of the population is not only a moral good in itself, but also a prerequisite for economic growth and sustainable development ” (WFPHA resolution on “Health and International Trade Agreements”, Brighton, UK on April 19th, 2004).

The WFPHA therefore resolves to intensify its efforts to reduce the health impact of current pattern of globalization, social crises AND climate change, by strengthening its capacities for international professional exchange and advocacy, based on its network of national public health associations as well as on connections to other international organizations and agencies.

(1) Resolutions and position papers adopted by WFPHA are available at http://www.wfpha.org/pg_about_policy.htm