



**World Federation of Public Health Associations**  
**Fédération mondiale des associations de santé publique**  
**Federación mundial de las asociaciones de salud pública**

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## **Destruction of the Remaining Smallpox Virus**

Passed by the WFPHA General Assembly - 1995

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### **The World Federation of Public Health Associations,**

Noting that following the success of the Global Program to Eradicate Smallpox, the World Health Assembly declared the world free of smallpox on 8 May 1980; that this is among the greatest public health achievements of all time; and that since the eradication of smallpox, much unnecessary suffering has been prevented throughout the world and that this has allowed scarce health resources to be put to other productive uses;

Aware that the last cases of smallpox occurring in the world resulted from a laboratory mishap and led to the infection of two people (one of whom died) and to extensive and expensive measures to prevent further infection, morbidity, and mortality;

Noting that smallpox virus and related materials (whitepox virus, viral genomic DNA, clinical specimens, and other infectious material) are now held in only two laboratories -- in the Russian Federation and the USA;

Believing that there is neither health nor any other reason for the continued preservation of smallpox virus;

1. **URGES** the World Health Assembly in May 1996 to require the destruction of all remaining stocks of smallpox virus and related materials;
2. **RESOLVES** to act in concert with other interested bodies to demand the destruction of all remaining stocks of smallpox virus and to maintain this demand until all smallpox virus and related materials are destroyed.