

(e) To submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its sixty-fifth session, and the final report at its sixty-eighth session.

*Fifth plenary meeting
23 May 2007*

Resolution 63/8

Sustainable financing towards achieving universal health-care coverage in Asia and the Pacific⁶⁰

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,⁶¹ in particular the health-related development goals,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,⁶² adopted by Heads of State and Government at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, held in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005, including the commitments on HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other health issues,

Recalling further that the 2005 World Summit Outcome reaffirms the importance of global partnership for development as well as of the primary responsibility of each country for its own development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming its resolutions 60/2 of 28 April 2004 and 61/12 of 18 May 2005, and recalling the Declaration of Alma-Ata, adopted by the International Conference on Primary Health Care, held from 6 to 12 September 1978,

Taking note of its resolution 61/7 of 18 May 2005,

Recognizing that the transition to the achievement of universal health-care coverage will contribute to sustainable development and ensuring social equality and better health for people,

Noting that, in its resolution 60/35 of 30 November 2005 on enhancing capacity-building in global public health, the General Assembly invited the regional commissions, as appropriate, to cooperate closely with member States, the private sector and civil society, when requested, in their capacity-building in public health, as well as in regional cooperation to diminish and eliminate the deleterious impact of major infectious diseases,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolution WHA58.33 of 25 May 2005 on sustainable health financing, universal coverage and social health insurance,

Concerned that a large number of people lack access to basic health care in the region, and that catastrophic health-care expenditures can impoverish individuals and increase the number of poor and vulnerable people in the region,

Concerned also with the deficiencies in infrastructure and human resources existing in the health sector in many countries of the region,

Noting that health financing and delivery systems in many countries in the region need to be developed further in the transition to the achievement of universal health-care coverage, while providing mechanisms for financial risk protection,

Recognizing the important role of State legislative and executive bodies in further reforming health-financing systems as well as the importance of the private sector in financing and delivering health care with a view to achieving universal coverage,

Acknowledging that a number of countries have taken steps to augment health financing, despite significant resource constraints,

Recognizing that the decision on a benefit package requires evidence on cost-effectiveness and the efficiency of resource use in the transition to the achievement of universal health-care coverage,

Considering that the choice of a health-financing system should be made within the particular context of each country,

Taking note of the report on the development of health systems in the context of enhancing economic growth towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific,⁶³

1. *Urges* members and associate members, as appropriate:

(a) To implement fully the commitments relating to health as reaffirmed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,⁶² while acknowledging increases in financial assistance being made by some developed countries, and to consider further mobilization of additional financial resources;

(b) To develop sustainable health-financing systems for their citizens to move towards universal health-care coverage as a means of attaining the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;⁶¹

(c) To recognize that options for the provision of sustainable health financing need to be considered in the light of the particular sociocultural, economic and political context of each country;

⁶⁰ See paras. 96 to 129 above.

⁶¹ See General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

⁶² See General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.

⁶³ E/ESCAP/63/4.

(d) To work to strengthen infrastructure and human resources for health in order to provide accessible, equitable and adequate health care for all citizens, while addressing disparities in health-care services within countries;

(e) To share best experiences on methods of health financing within the particular context of each country, to work towards the goal of universal coverage effectively;

(f) To share experiences in the financing of health-care delivery systems, including those relating to rural areas, including clinic services, and the services of public health workers and midwives;

(g) To consider inviting national stakeholders and development partners, as appropriate, to cooperate on the development of national strategies to move towards the achievement of universal coverage;

(h) To ensure that health-financing systems include a method for prepayment of financial contributions for health care, while taking into account payment capacities, with a view to sharing risk among the population and avoiding catastrophic health-care expenditures and impoverishment of individuals as a result of seeking care;

(i) To ensure that external funds for specific health programmes or activities are managed and organized in a way that contributes to the development of sustainable financing mechanisms for the health system as a whole and that they address national priorities;

(j) To build up and strengthen capacity in the design of benefit packages, taking into account cost-effectiveness and the efficiency of resource use, in the transition to the achievement of universal health-care coverage;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in close coordination with relevant organizations, such as the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank:

(a) To assist members and associate members in their capacity-building on the provision of health financing with a view to achieving the goal of universal coverage and providing a platform for regional cooperation and exchange of experiences;

(b) To continue to analyse the situation of health financing within the overall development policies and planning of members and associate members, and its implications for the economic and social well-being of their citizens, including the transition to the achievement of universal health-care coverage, and outline the options available to countries in the region;

(c) To provide technical support, upon request, in the monitoring of progress towards the goal of universal coverage;

(d) To organize and invite interested members to consultations at a senior level to discuss

sustainable health-care financing in the region towards achieving universal coverage of health services;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*Fifth plenary meeting
23 May 2007*

Resolution 63/9

Implementation of the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase I (2007-2011)⁶⁴

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Welcoming the successful outcome of the Ministerial Conference on Transport, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, on 10 and 11 November 2006, which adopted the Busan Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, including the Regional Action Programme for phase I (2007-2011), and the Ministerial Declaration on Improving Road Safety in Asia and the Pacific,⁶⁵

Recognizing the increasing impact of globalization and the substantial growth in output, trade and investment being experienced by many countries in the Asian and Pacific region,

Stressing the crucial role of efficient, reliable and cost-effective transport services, including infrastructure, facilitation and logistics, in supporting continued growth through improved competitiveness of exports and reduced cost of imports,

Convinced that, in order to support the rapid changes in output, trade and investment, there is a need for the implementation of regional transport policy through more frequent dialogue between countries,

Noting the strong support expressed at the Ministerial Conference on Transport for the establishment of a forum of Asian ministers of transport as a formal regional mechanism to facilitate close collaboration and more frequent interaction in order to address emerging issues,

Noting also that growth has taken place mainly in coastal areas that have well-developed regional and interregional maritime transport linkages with international sourcing and production networks,

Convinced of the important role of “dry ports” in the development of an international integrated intermodal system and their potential to become centres for economic development, particularly in landlocked countries and wider domestic hinterlands,

⁶⁴ See paras. 201 to 219 above.

⁶⁵ See E/ESCAP/63/13.