

World Health Organization
FORTY-SEVENTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
Organisation mondiale de la Santé
'(Draft) A47/53
11 May 1994
Fourth report of Committee A
(Draft)

It was decided to recommend to the Forty-seventh World Health Assembly the following resolution relating to the following agenda item:

20. Onchocerciasis control through ivermectin distribution
Assembly the adoption of the

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Agenda item 20

Onchocerciasis control through ivermectin distribution

The Forty-seventh World Health Assembly,

Noting the report by the Director-General on onchocerciasis control through ivermectin distribution;

Aware of the threat to health posed by onchocerciasis in endemic countries in the African Region,

the Region of the Americas and the Eastern Mediterranean Region in which some 18 million people suffer

from the disease, including one million blind or severely visually disabled persons;

Recognizing with appreciation the success achieved by the Onchocerciasis Control Programme in

West Africa, at present operating in 11 countries, with vector control and, in recent years, ivermectin

distribution to selected populations;

Concerned that onchocerciasis is still a public health problem with serious socioeconomic consequences in the remaining endemic countries in the three regions concerned;

Appreciating that the disease can be brought under control through single annual doses of ivermectin,

the drug provided free of charge by the manufacturer to countries where onchocerciasis is endemic;

Noting the recent initiatives for the control of onchocerciasis in the Americas, and the creation of an

international nongovernmental organizations coordination group for ivermectin distribution, collaborating

with WHO,

1. REQUESTS the Member States concerned:

(1) to prepare national plans, if they do not already exist, for the control of onchocerciasis through

vector control, where applicable, and the regular distribution of ivermectin to populations in need;

(2) to take advantage of ivermectin distribution to strengthen primary health care, including

appropriate health and public information;

(3) to consider setting up mechanisms for collaboration with nongovernmental or other organizations through national coordinators, national committees or similar bodies, for support to,

and coordination of, ivermectin distribution schemes;

(4) to make full use of the existing application procedure for obtaining ivermectin for public health

purposes free of charge from the manufacturer;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to pursue actively the initiatives taken for onchocerciasis control through ivermectin distribution,

in consultation with collaborating nongovernmental and other organizations and interested institutions;

(2) to develop further and disseminate rapid epidemiological methods for assessment and mapping

of onchocerciasis in the remaining countries where it is endemic;

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(3) to determine the most appropriate sustainable modalities of delivery, including evaluation of

the cost effectiveness in relation to vector control;

(4) to ensure technical cooperation with those countries for the development of national plans for

onchocerciasis control;

(5) to promote further and coordinate potential support for ivermectin distribution to combat

onchocerciasis with other specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, such as

UNICEF and the World Bank;

(6) to report back to the Executive Board and the Health Assembly on further progress made, as

appropriate.