

Health emergency in Ukraine and refugee-receiving and -hosting countries, stemming from the Russian Federation's aggression

Draft decision proposed by Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America

The Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly,

(PP1) Having considered the report by the Director-General requested in decision WHA76(8) (2023) on the implementation of resolution WHA75.11 (2022);¹

(PP2) Recalling further the decision contained in resolution WHA75.11 (2022) that continued action by the Russian Federation to the detriment of the health situation in Ukraine, at regional and global levels, would necessitate that the Health Assembly should consider the application of relevant articles of WHO Constitution;

(PP3) Recognizing the unprecedented challenges resulting from the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine;

(PP4) Recognizing further the ongoing work of WHO, its implementing partners, and other humanitarian organizations in addressing the health and humanitarian impacts of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, and the wider region;

(PP5) Noting the adoption of WHO's country cooperation strategy, Ukraine 2024–2030, which outlines WHO's commitment to support Ukraine in its efforts to reform the health system, emphasizing the need for investment in health care infrastructure, workforce development, and the implementation of reforms,

¹ Document A77/13.

Decided:

(OP)1. to condemn in the strongest terms the Russian Federation's continued aggression against Ukraine, including attacks on health care facilities documented via the WHO's Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care (SSA), as well as widespread attacks affecting civilians and critical civilian infrastructure that have led to heavy casualties, and hampered access to health care;

(OP)2. to express serious concerns over the continued health emergency in Ukraine and refugee-receiving and -hosting countries, including the negative impact on the mental health and psychosocial well-being of the population of Ukraine, triggered by the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, as well as its wider-than-regional health and humanitarian impacts including, inter alia: significant numbers of refugees fleeing Ukraine; the risks of radiological, biological and chemical events and hazards; and the exacerbation of an already significant global food security crisis;

(OP)3. to draw attention to the fact that the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine continues to constitute exceptional circumstances, causing a serious impediment to the health of the population of Ukraine, as well as having regional and wider-than-regional health impacts;

(OP)4. to also draw attention to the severe and multifaceted impact of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine on persons in vulnerable or marginalized situations, especially women, children, young people, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities, older persons, and survivors of all forms of violence, including gender-based violence, former combatants, prisoners of war and civilian detainees;

(OP)5. to call for respect for and protection of the sick and wounded consistent with the 1949 Geneva Conventions and with broader international humanitarian law, including immediate and unconditional repatriation of all seriously wounded and seriously sick prisoners of war as well as the release and repatriation of wounded and sick civilian detainees;

(OP)6. to urge the Russian Federation to immediately cease any attacks against critical infrastructure across Ukraine, including hospitals and other health care facilities, which have resulted in reduced access to essential services such as the provision of health care, water, sanitation and energy, leading to devastating consequences for the civilian population, and to fully respect and protect all medical personnel and humanitarian personnel engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, the sick and wounded, civilians, health and humanitarian aid workers, and health care systems;

(OP)7. to urge the relevant Member States to adhere to international humanitarian law, and international human rights law, as applicable, and WHO norms and standards and also allow and facilitate safe, rapid and unhindered access to populations in need of assistance by staff deployed by WHO on the ground, and by all other medical and humanitarian personnel;

(OP)8. to request the Director-General:

- (a) to continue to implement resolution WHA75.11 (2022), entitled "Health emergency in Ukraine and refugee-receiving and -hosting countries, stemming from the Russian Federation's aggression";

(b) to report to the Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly in 2025, through the 156th session of the Executive Board, on the implementation of resolution WHA75.11 (2022), including an assessment of the direct and indirect impact of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine on the health of the population of Ukraine, as well as related regional and wider-than-regional health impacts including on its adverse effect on the attainment of the objective and functions of WHO.

= = =