

Health emergency in and around Ukraine

Draft resolution proposed by the Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Belarus

The Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly,

(PP1) Reaffirming that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition, and that peace and security are critical to the attainment of this human right;

(PP2) Expressing grave concern over the humanitarian situation in Ukraine which has aggravated for the past decade since WHO graded it as a health emergency on 20 February 2014;

(PP3) Recalling resolution WHA65.20 (2012) on WHO's response, and role as the health cluster lead, in meeting the growing demands of health in humanitarian emergencies and decision WHA69(9) (2016) on reform of WHO's work in health emergency management: WHO Health Emergencies Programme;

(PP4) Recalling also United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/182 (1991) entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations" and all relevant subsequent resolutions;

(PP5) Recognizing that the protracted humanitarian emergency in and around Ukraine results in loss of life and human suffering, in conflict-related trauma and injuries, and weakened ability of health systems to deliver essential life-saving health services and produces setbacks for public health development as well as increased risks of illness and death from noncommunicable diseases, and from the emergence and spread of communicable diseases;

(PP6) Expressing grave concern over growing number of civilian casualties, including children, in and around Ukraine resulting from regular attacks on civilian areas and infrastructure, including medical facilities;

(PP7) Commending efforts aimed at reunification of families separated due to the hostilities;

(PP8) Commending WHO, its staff and health cluster partners for their tireless efforts to ensure medical response, assist the affected population, deliver supplies and equipment for disease surveillance, prevention and diagnostics, as well as for strengthening health systems and sanitation infrastructure;

(PP9) Commending efforts of the refugee-receiving and -hosting countries and WHO-coordinated Refugee Health Extension to ensure that medical support, including mental health services, is provided to all refugees, especially women and children;

(PP10) Demanding that all parties respect their obligations under international humanitarian law;

(PP11) Reaffirming the need to respect and protect medical and humanitarian personnel, their facilities, equipment, transport and supplies and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of medical and humanitarian personnel, as well as the delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including internally displaced persons;

(PP12) Expressing further concern at the fact that the civilian population has been exposed to conflict and insecurity in and around Ukraine, leading to significant mental health and psychosocial needs, underlining the importance of urgently providing mental health and psychosocial support, as well as trauma-related services, to the affected persons particularly children,

(OP)1. DEMANDS that civilians in and around Ukraine, including humanitarian personnel and persons in vulnerable situations, including women and children, are fully protected;

(OP)2. DEMANDS that all parties concerned ensure the respect for and protection of all medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in their medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, hospitals and other medical facilities;

(OP)3. DEMANDS from all parties concerned full respect for the provisions of international humanitarian law in connection with objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population and civilian infrastructure that is critical to enable the delivery of essential services in armed conflict;

(OP)4. CONDEMNS all violations of international humanitarian law and violations of human rights, and calls upon all parties to respect strictly the relevant provisions of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocol I thereto, of 1977 and to respect international human rights law, as applicable;

(OP)5. URGES the relevant Member States:

- (1) to adhere to international humanitarian law, and international human rights law, as applicable, and WHO norms and standards;
- (2) to 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;
- (3) to ensure access to essential medicines, medical equipment and other health technologies in all conflict and non-conflict areas;

(OP)6. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to continue supporting the health sectors in and around Ukraine and refugee-receiving and -hosting countries using a health system approach, including through capacity-building programmes in preparedness for and response to trauma care and mass casualties as well as in maintenance of basic health services and the promotion of access thereto in a context of conflict;
- (2) to support the sustainable procurement of essential medicines, medical equipment and other health technologies;

- (3) to pursue the monitoring, collection, documentation and dissemination of data on attacks on health care facilities, health workers, health transports, and patients in and around Ukraine;
- (4) to assess, in full cooperation with health cluster partners and other relevant United Nations agencies, the extent and nature of psychiatric morbidity, and other forms of mental health problems, resulting from the protracted situation in and around Ukraine and refugee-receiving and -hosting countries;
- (5) to continue regularly reporting on the Ukraine complex health emergency and relevant WHO work to the World Health Assembly through the Executive Board as part of the report on WHO's work in health emergencies.

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