

## **Global Health and Peace Initiative**

The Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly,

Having considered the consolidated report by the Director-General;<sup>1</sup>

Emphasizing the role of WHO within its mandate as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work;

Recalling the Constitution of the World Health Organization recognizing that the health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security and that governments have a responsibility for the health of their peoples which can be fulfilled only by the provision of adequate health and social measures;

Recalling also resolution WHA34.38 (1981) on the role of physicians and other health workers in the preservation and promotion of peace as the most significant factor for the attainment of health for all;

Recalling further 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, in which the Health Assembly recognized that WHO is in a unique position to support health ministries and partners, as the lead agency for the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Global Health Cluster, in coordinating preparations for, the response to and the recovery from humanitarian emergencies, and called on Member States to strengthen national risk management, health emergency preparedness and contingency planning processes and disaster management units in the health ministry, as outlined in resolution WHA64.10 (2011);

Reaffirming that it is the national authority that has the primary responsibility to take care of victims of natural disasters and other emergencies occurring on its territory, and that the affected State has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory;

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/182 (19 December 1991) on strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations and all subsequent General Assembly resolutions on the subject, including resolution 78/119 (8 December 2023), and underscoring that respect for international law, including international humanitarian law, is essential to respond to health emergencies in armed conflicts and mitigate their impact;

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<sup>1</sup> Documents A77/4.

Recalling also that international humanitarian law, as applicable, must be fully applied in all circumstances, without any adverse distinction based on the nature or origin of the armed conflict or on the causes espoused by or attributed to the parties to the conflict, recalling that domestic implementation of international obligations plays a central role in fulfilling the obligation to respect international humanitarian law, and recognizing the primary role of States in this regard;

Recalling further decision WHA68(10) (2015) in which the Health Assembly reiterated that WHO's emergency response at all levels shall be exercised according to international law, in particular with Article 2(d) of the Constitution of the World Health Organization and in a manner consistent with the principles and objectives of the Emergency Response Framework, and the International Health Regulations (2005), and shall be guided by an all-hazards health emergency approach, emphasizing adaptability, flexibility and accountability; humanitarian principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality, and independence; and predictability, timeliness and country ownership;

Also recalling decision WHA75(24) (2022) in which the Health Assembly requested the Director-General to consult with Member States and Observers on the implementation of the proposed ways forward and to then develop a road map;

Further recalling decision WHA76(12) (2023) in which the Health Assembly took note of the road map for the Global Health and Peace Initiative and requested the Director-General to report on progress made on strengthening the road map, as a living document through consultations with Member States, Observers and other stakeholders, as decided by Member States;

Considering the continued work on strengthening the road map as requested in decision WHA76(12),

REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to continue the following actions, within and as part of the consultative process of strengthening the road map for the Global Health and Peace Initiative:
  - (a) evidence gathering through research summary and its analysis;
  - (b) communication and awareness about the Global Health and Peace Initiative and its added value and the Health and Peace approach to programming;
  - (c) capacity-building through technical support and the development of an internal WHO training handbook for programming purposes within WHO's mandate;
  - (d) dialogue and partnership with key actors to explore where expertise can be pooled and identify areas of cooperation;
- (2) to report back on progress to the Executive Board at its 158th session in 2026 and for the consideration of further action by Member States;
- (3) to report to the Eighty-second World Health Assembly in 2029, through the Executive Board, on the status of the road map in view of a possible, consensual strengthened road map.

Eighth plenary meeting, 1 June 2024  
A77/VR/8

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