

International trade and health

The Fifty-ninth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on international trade and health;¹

Recalling resolutions WHA52.19, WHA53.14, WHA56.23, WHA56.27, WHA57.14 and WHA57.19;

Recognizing the demand for information about the possible implications of international trade and trade agreements for health and health policy at national, regional and global levels;

Mindful of the need for all relevant ministries, including those of health, trade, commerce, finance and foreign affairs, to work together constructively in order to ensure that the interests of trade and health are appropriately balanced and coordinated,

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to promote **multi-stakeholder** dialogue at national level to consider the interplay between international trade and health;

(2) to adopt, where necessary, policies, laws and regulations that deal with issues identified in that dialogue and take advantage of the potential opportunities, and address the potential challenges that trade and trade agreements may have for health, considering, where appropriate, using the flexibilities inherent in them;

(3) to apply or establish, where necessary, coordination mechanisms involving ministries of finance, health, and trade, and other relevant institutions, to address public health related aspects of international trade;

(4) to create constructive and interactive relationships across the public and private sectors for the purpose of generating coherence in their trade and health policies;

(5) to continue to develop capacity at national level to track and analyse the potential opportunities and challenges of trade and trade agreements for health-sector performance and health outcomes;

¹ Document A59/15.

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to provide support to Member States, at their request and in collaboration with the competent international organizations, in their efforts to frame coherent policies to address the relationship between trade and health;
- (2) to respond to Member States' requests for support of their efforts to build the capacity to understand the implications of international trade and trade agreements for health and to address relevant issues through policies and legislation that take advantage of the potential opportunities, and address the potential challenges, that trade and trade agreements may have for health;
- (3) to continue collaborating with the competent international organizations in order to support policy coherence between trade and health sectors at regional and global levels, including generating and sharing evidence on the relationship between trade and health;
- (4) to report to the Sixty-first World Health Assembly, through the Executive Board, on progress made in implementing this resolution.

Ninth plenary meeting, 27 May 2006
A59/VR/9

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