WHA61.21 Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property

The Sixty-first World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property;¹

Recalling the establishment pursuant to resolution WHA59.24 of an intergovernmental working group to draw up a global strategy and plan of action in order to provide a medium-term framework based on the recommendations of the Commission on Intellectual Property, Innovation and Public Health, and to secure, inter alia, an enhanced and sustainable basis for needs-driven, essential health research and development relevant to diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries, proposing clear objectives and priorities for research and development, and estimating funding needs in this area;

Recalling resolutions WHA49.14 and WHA52.19 on revised drug strategy, WHA53.14, WHA54.10 and WHA57.14 on HIV/AIDS, WHA56.27 on intellectual property rights, innovation and public health, WHA58.34 on the Ministerial Summit on Health Research, WHA59.26 on international trade and health; and WHA60.30 on public health, innovation and intellectual property;

Welcoming the progress made by the Intergovernmental Working Group in elaborating the global strategy and the identification of the stakeholders in the plan of action,

1. ADOPTS the global strategy and the agreed parts of the plan of action² on public health, innovation and intellectual property, attached to this resolution;

2. URGES Member States:³

   (1) to implement the specific actions recommended in the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property;

   (2) to support actively the wide implementation of the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property, and to consider providing adequate resources for its implementation;

3. CALLS UPON relevant international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to give priority within their respective mandates and programmes to implementing the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property;

4. REQUESTS the Director-General in implementing the global strategy and agreed parts of the plan of action without prejudice to the existing mandates:

¹ Document A61/9.
² On the specific actions and stakeholder components.
³ Where applicable, also regional economic integration organizations.
(1) to provide support for Member States, upon request, in implementing the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property and in monitoring and evaluating its implementation;

(2) to support effective promotion and implementation of the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property;

(3) to continue to implement the mandates contained in resolutions WHA49.14 and WHA52.19 on revised drug strategy, WHA53.14, WHA54.10, WHA56.30 and WHA57.14 on HIV/AIDS, WHA56.27 on intellectual property rights, innovation and public health, WHA59.26 on international trade and health, and WHA60.30 on public health, innovation and intellectual property, as well as WHA55.11 on health and sustainable development, WHA55.14 on ensuring accessibility of essential medicines, and WHA60.18 on malaria, including proposal for establishment of World Malaria Day;

(4) to finalize urgently the outstanding components of the plan of action concerning timeframes, progress indicators and estimated funding needs, and to submit the final plan of action including the open paragraphs on stakeholders for consideration by the Sixty-second World Health Assembly through the Executive Board;

(5) to coordinate with other relevant international intergovernmental organizations, including WIPO, WTO and UNCTAD, to effectively implement the global strategy and plan of action;

(6) notwithstanding the request in subparagraph (4) above, to prepare a quick start programme with adequate budget provision and begin immediately to implement the elements of the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property that fall under the responsibility of WHO;

(7) to establish urgently a results-oriented and time-limited expert working group to examine current financing and coordination of research and development, as well as proposals for new and innovative sources of funding to stimulate research and development related to Type II and Type III diseases and the specific research and development needs of developing countries in relation to Type I diseases, and open to consideration of proposals from Member States, and to submit a progress report to the Sixty-second World Health Assembly and the final report to the Sixty-third World Health Assembly through the Executive Board;

(8) to reflect, as appropriate, the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property in the further development of WHO’s research strategy;

(9) to include adequate resources in the forthcoming proposed programme budgets for effective implementation of the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property;

(10) to monitor performance and progress in implementing the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property, and to report progress to the Sixty-third World Health Assembly through the Executive Board, and subsequently every two years, until the fulfilment of the time frame, to the Health Assembly, through the Executive Board.