

## 1993/79. Multisectoral collaboration on "Tobacco or health"

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* World Health Assembly resolution WHA45.20 of 13 May 1992, in which the Assembly requested multi-sectoral collaboration within the United Nations system on tobacco or health issues,<sup>201</sup>

*Acknowledging* the established leadership of the World Health Organization in alerting all Member States to the seriousness of the tobacco pandemic by providing estimates that tobacco use causes 3 million deaths a year and that, based on current smoking patterns, that figure is expected to increase to 10 million a year within the next few decades,

*Concerned* that, in countries where estimates have been made, more than one third of smokers who begin to smoke during adolescence and continue to smoke throughout their lives will die prematurely as a result of their habit and that, despite long-standing and widespread knowledge of the serious health consequences of tobacco use, worldwide tobacco production exceeds 7 million tons and is still increasing,

*Concerned* about the economic effects of reduced production in the tobacco-producing countries, which are still unable to develop a viable economic alternative to tobacco,

*Recalling* that the World Health Assembly, by its resolutions WHA39.14 of 15 May 1986<sup>202</sup> and WHA43.16 of 17 May 1990,<sup>203</sup> has urged Member States to adopt comprehensive strategies of tobacco control,

*Stressing* that the serious health consequences of tobacco use cannot be tackled effectively without appropriate strategies for demand reduction,

*Noting* that the World Bank has adopted a policy of providing no new loans for tobacco growing or manufacturing projects,

*Acknowledging* the socio-economic context of tobacco production and the concerns of the tobacco-producing countries, particularly those that depend heavily on tobacco production, and acknowledging also that the implementation of comprehensive strategies as recommended by the World Health Organization will involve matters of tobacco agriculture, commerce, trade, taxation and marketing,

*Acknowledging also* that many international agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Bank, must collaborate closely in developing multisectoral approaches to the tobacco or health issue, particularly with respect to the concerns of tobacco-producing developing countries,

*Acknowledging further* that cultural practices and customs relating to the use of tobacco should be duly taken into account in developing multisectoral approaches to the tobacco or health issue,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the need for multi-sectoral collaboration on tobacco or health;<sup>204</sup>

2. *Urges* Governments to intensify their commitment and efforts designed to reduce tobacco consumption and the demand for tobacco products, including the implementation of comprehensive multisectoral plans at the country level;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the full collaboration of the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Health Organization, other United Nations organizations and other international organizations, as appropriate, in contributing to the successful implementation of effective comprehensive strategies through multisectoral collaboration among international agencies;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to establish, under the auspices of the World Health Organization and within existing resources, a focal point among existing institutions of the United Nations system on the subject of multisectoral collaboration on the economic and social aspects of tobacco production and consumption, taking into particular account the serious health consequences of tobacco use;

5. *Suggests* that the multisectoral collaboration coordinated through the United Nations system focal point seek to offer practical advice and assistance to Member States, at their request, on how they can implement or strengthen comprehensive national tobacco control strategies;

6. *Suggests also* that a review of and recommendations concerning the impact of tobacco production on the economy of tobacco-producing countries, in particular those that depend on tobacco as a major source of income, as well as the impact of tobacco consumption on health, be included in the multisectoral collaboration work coordinated by the focal point;

7. *Invites* Member States and organizations of the United Nations system to develop a range of options, including bilateral and effective multilateral collaboration on agricultural diversification or development of other economic alternatives to tobacco agriculture, as appropriate, to assist economies for which tobacco is a major export, where demand for their tobacco products has decreased as a result of successful strategies for tobacco control;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the work of the United Nations system focal point begins as soon as possible and that each contributing agency, in consultation with Member States concerned, together with the focal point, develops, before 31 December 1993, individual plans of work, setting out deadlines and achievement milestones, for their agency's contribution to multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health that will lead to a rapid reduction in the burden of disease and death caused by the pandemic use of tobacco, while giving due consideration to any economic adjustments that may arise from a reduction in the demand for tobacco products;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994 on progress made by the United Nations system focal point in the implementation of multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health.

*46th plenary meeting  
30 July 1993*