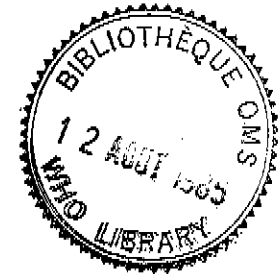




CONFERENCE OF EXPERTS
ON THE RATIONAL USE OF DRUGS

25 - 29 November 1985, Nairobi, Kenya



ANNOTATED AGENDA

Agenda item

1. SOURCES, TYPES AND AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

(Working papers 1.1 and 1.2)

With a view to improving the capacity of all concerned to find their way through the plethora of information on drugs, the meeting will consider current sources, types and availability of information, for example, publications, conferences, professional literature, data sheets, formularies, bulletins, and drug information systems. It will also consider the scope and content of information required by prescribers and the public and the related roles of those who either generate and/or require information on drugs, including governments and national regulatory authorities and similar mechanisms, the scientific community, the health practitioner community, industry, consumers' and patients' organizations, and the media. Particular consideration will be given to WHO's role in this domain.

2. DRUG CONTROL AND DISTRIBUTION

(Working papers 2.1 to 2.6)

The meeting will consider the many aspects of drug control and distribution including drug marketing, relevant national health legislation, and drug prescription practices and distribution systems. Such aspects of drug marketing as registration, brand and generic names, labelling, packaging, pricing, the right to prescribe, the right to distribute, the right to sell retail, over-the-counter sales, and promotion will be considered, promotion being understood to include such matters as information to prescribers, sales representatives, advertising, samples and symposia. The role of the WHO Action Programme on Essential Drugs, and the WHO Certification Scheme on the Quality of Pharmaceutical Products moving in International Commerce will be reviewed. To illustrate drug control and distribution, a series of national case studies prepared by the governments concerned will be available (working papers 2.4.1 - 2.4.6).

3. TRAINING, EDUCATION AND OTHER INFORMATION TRANSFER

(Working papers 3.1 and 3.2)

Education and training for the rational use of drugs by health personnel and the public will be reviewed. This will include consideration of the training of various categories of health personnel; education of individuals, families and communities; and the use of case studies in training. WHO's role in training, education and other information transfer will be highlighted.

NB: The working papers for all the above will include suggestions for improving the situation in the specific area of concern with a view to promoting a more rational use of drugs. The meeting will be expected to review these suggestions and to make suggestions of its own.

4. DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S SUMMING UP OF THE ISSUES, THE PROCEEDINGS AND THE POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR WHO'S PROGRAMME

The Director-General will sum up the issues, the proceedings and the potential implications for WHO's programme. Participants will have the opportunity to comment on this summing up, which will subsequently serve as a basis for the Director-General's report to the Thirty-ninth World Health Assembly in 1986.

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