



Ref.: C.L.16.1994

The Director-General of the World Health Organization presents his compliments and has the honour to make reference to the 1994 Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) which is being held in New York from 27 June to 29 July 1994. Among other issues, the session will consider, under item 9(c) of the agenda, probably in the afternoon of 26 July, the Report of the United Nations Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health", which has been prepared in response to the request made in resolution 1993/79 of the 1993 Substantive Session of ECOSOC. Also in pursuance of that resolution the Secretary-General established a focal point, under the auspices of WHO, within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 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.

Member States which are also members of ECOSOC in 1994 may wish to consider briefing their delegations on this subject, and on the commitment of WHO to support the work of the United Nations focal point on multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health. In this connection, copies of the following documentation are enclosed:

- ... 1. Resolution WHA45.20 "Multisectoral collaboration on WHO's programme on tobacco or health".
- ... 2. Document E/1993/INF/6 containing the text of ECOSOC resolution 1993/79 entitled "Multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health".

The report of the Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health" will be available in due course from the ECOSOC secretariat.

GENEVA, 11 July 1994

... ENCL: (2)

**COLLABORATION WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM  
GENERAL MATTERS**

**MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION ON WHO'S PROGRAMME ON  
TOBACCO OR HEALTH**

The Forty-fifth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the Director-General's report on collaboration within the United Nations system and noting the relevance of that collaboration in approaching issues such as "tobacco or health";

Recalling resolutions WHA42.19 and WHA43.16 regarding the socioeconomic and development implications of tobacco in the countries that depend on tobacco production as a major source of income;

Reaffirming the need for multisectoral strategies, including the involvement of other members of the United Nations system in dealing with the complexities and difficulties of the subject of "tobacco or health";

Recalling the Executive Board's decision at its eighty-ninth session (EB89(16)) on the action taken by the Director-General in reporting to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and the reaffirmation of the orientation given to WHO's programme on "tobacco or health";

Concerned about the lack of appropriate follow-up activities to the Director-General's report on the need for multisectoral collaboration within the United Nations system for the problem of "tobacco or health" at the session of the Economic and Social Council in July 1991;

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

1. THANKS the Director-General for his report, and for bringing to the attention of the Economic and Social Council the need for collaboration within the United Nations system on the complex issue of "tobacco or health";
2. REQUESTS the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations to put the subject of "tobacco or health" on the agenda of its next session so that the subject is officially discussed with an appropriate follow-up in the United Nations General Assembly and organizations of the United Nations system;
3. REQUESTS the Director-General:
  - (1) to continue to seek and to facilitate multisectoral collaboration on WHO's "tobacco or health" programme within the United Nations system;

(2) to bring to the Council's attention WHO's concern over socioeconomic problems of tobacco production and difficulties associated with assistance to the countries dependent on tobacco production, as reflected in the report requested in operative paragraph 3(5) of resolution WHA43.16.

Twelfth plenary meeting, 13 May 1992  
A45/VR/12

= = =



Economic and Social Council

Distr.  
GENERAL

E/1993/INF/6  
7 September 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS  
adopted by the  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
at its  
SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF 1993  
(Geneva, 28 June-30 July 1993)

Note: The provisional texts of the resolutions and decisions are circulated herein for information. For the provisional texts of the resolutions and decisions adopted at the organizational and resumed organizational sessions for 1993, see E/1993/INF/2 and Add.1. The provisional texts of resolutions and decisions adopted at the resumed substantive session will be issued as an addendum to the present document. The final texts will be issued in Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 1 (E/1993/93).

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling World Health Assembly resolution WHA 45.20 of 13 May 1992, in which the Assembly requested multisectoral collaboration within the United Nations system on tobacco or health issues, 184/

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, world-wide 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,

Noting that the World Health Assembly, through its resolutions WHA 39.14 185/ and WHA 43.16, 185/ 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 further 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,

---

184/ See E/1993/8, annex.

185/ See E/1993/56, annex, appendix II.

1. Takes note of the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the need for multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health; 186/
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. Requests the Secretary-General to establish, under the auspices of the World Health Organization and within existing resources, a focal point, within 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 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 begin as soon as possible and that each contributing agency, in consultation with concerned Member States, together with the focal point, develop, 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 tobacco pandemic, 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