



Ref.: C.L.20.1995

The Director-General of the World Health Organization presents his compliments and has the honour to inform Member States that on 7 April 1996, World Health Day will be dedicated to Healthy Cities, with the slogan:

HEALTHY CITIES - FOR BETTER LIFE

By the turn of the century, 24 of the world's great cities will have more than 10 million inhabitants. Five of these - four of them in developing countries - will have reached the 15 million mark. Such dramatic growth has already led to deteriorating urban environments and infrastructures that cause severe adverse effects on human health.

The implementation of "Healthy Cities" projects in metropolitan areas around the world has already emerged as an effective and innovative means of improving urban health and urban environments, particularly for low-income dwellers. The "Healthy Cities" approach promotes a coalition of municipal governments and community organizations to address priority urban health and environment problems.

Healthy City programmes help countries to make health and improved living conditions a major goal. In a Healthy City all municipal agencies concerned with energy, industry, food, agriculture, macroeconomic planning, housing, land-use and transportation, examine the health implications of their policies and programmes, and adjust them to better promote health and a healthy environment.

The Director-General invites Member States to adopt the theme of "Healthy Cities" for World Health Day 1996. A thousand cities worldwide will be contacted by WHO and encouraged to make World Health Day a year-long event and to create, as the slogan chosen for 1996 suggests, "Healthy Cities - For Better Life".

GENEVA, 8 November 1995