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**Note for the press WHA/1  
14 May 2004**

## **WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY SET TO TACKLE KEY HEALTH ISSUES**

*HIV/AIDS, SARS, the global strategy on diet, physical activity and health and road safety  
amongst issues for countries at  
57<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Assembly opening Monday*

**Geneva** - The World Health Assembly, bringing the 192 Member States of the World Health Organization together, is set to consider several critical health issues next week. The Assembly is the supreme decision-making body for WHO, and runs this year from 17 - 22 May. It will discuss actions needed to fight HIV/AIDS, to increase safety on the world's roads, a proposed strategy on diet, physical activity and health, a proposed strategy for reproductive health, a resolution on family health, and will receive updates on progress in eradicating polio, controlling measles and SARS. Keynote addresses will also be given by former Presidents Kim Dae-jung of the Republic of Korea, and Jimmy Carter of the United States of America.

"There are many health challenges we must overcome, including detecting emerging, new diseases, combating those which have been with us for decades, and the risks linked to unhealthy diet. The World Health Assembly is the forum for countries to decide on health priorities, and to give direction on how these can be addressed," said Dr LEE Jong-wook, Director-General of the WHO at a briefing with journalists today. "All of our health work must ultimately serve to strengthen health systems. That is the way countries can sustain progress in public health."

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Below is a list of agenda items and issues which may be of interest to journalists. Accompanying documents and background information can be found at [http://www.who.int/gb/ebwha/e/e\\_wha57.html](http://www.who.int/gb/ebwha/e/e_wha57.html)

An updated World Health Assembly Journal is posted daily also at [http://www.who.int/gb/ebwha/e/e\\_wha57.html](http://www.who.int/gb/ebwha/e/e_wha57.html), which details the latest agenda. Note that times and dates for agenda items may change, so journalists should regularly consult the Journal, and contact WHO media staff for updates. A full list of staff contacts and other information about the Assembly can be found in the World Health Assembly media advisory at <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/notes/2004/ma07/en/>

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**Monday, 17 May**

**PM: Plenary Speakers:** Dr LEE Jong-wook, WHO Director-General  
Kim Dae-jung, former President, Republic of Korea

**Tuesday, 18 May**

**AM: 9:30:** HIV/AIDS Roundtable discussions

**PM: Committee A:** HIV, Buruli Ulcer

**13:00:** Technical briefing - Health Action in Crises

**Wednesday, 19 May**

**AM: Plenary Speaker:** Jimmy Carter, former President of the United States of America  
**Committee A:** Control of African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness); Smallpox eradication; Polio eradication

**PM: Committee A:** Global strategy on diet, physical activity and health; road safety and health

**13:00:** Technical Briefing: Mental Health and Substance Abuse

**Thursday, 20 May**

**AM: Committee A:** Health promotion and healthy lifestyle, family and reproductive health

**PM: Committee A:** Health systems, including primary health care; quality and safety of medicines regulatory systems

**13:00:** Technical Briefing: Patient Safety and the establishment of an international alliance

**17:00:** Plenary: Awards

**Friday, 21 May**

**AM: Committee A:** Genomics and world health; human organ and tissue transplantation; Progress on previous WHA resolutions: measles, SARS, integrated prevention of noncommunicable diseases; quality of care/patient safety; infant and young child nutrition; WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

**Committee B:** Health conditions of, and assistance to, the Arab population in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine

**PM:** Continuation of Committee A

**Saturday 22 May**

**AM: Committee A:** Finalisation of resolutions and reports

**PM:** Reports of the committees, and closure

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