**II/8: Health aspects of the sound management of chemicals**

*The Conference,*

*Mindful* that the sound management of chemicals is essential if we are to achieve sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty and disease, the improvement of human health and the environment and the elevation and maintenance of the standard of living in countries at all levels of development,

*Recognizing* the need to make special efforts to protect those groups in society that are particularly vulnerable to risks from hazardous chemicals or are highly exposed to them,

*Determined* to protect children and the unborn child from chemical exposures that impair future lives, and also to minimize risks to human health, including that of workers, throughout the life cycle of chemicals,

*Reiterating* that the involvement of all relevant sectors and stakeholders, on an equal basis and at all levels is key to achieving the objectives of the Strategic Approach,

*Recognizing* that more than 25 per cent of the global burden of disease is linked to measurable environmental determinants, including exposure to chemicals, some of which persist or bioaccumulate or both, and that the health sector has substantive roles and responsibilities in chemicals management,

*Welcoming* the support of the World Health Assembly through its resolution WHA59.15, which urged Member States to take full account of the health aspects of chemical safety in national implementation of the Strategic Approach, noting the substantive progress already made, but recognizing that much remained to be done,

*Noting* the contribution by the World Health Organization to Strategic Approach implementation through the Organization's work programme, and participation in the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund Implementation Committee and the Strategic Approach secretariat,

*Noting also* thatthe World Health Assembly plans to consider a report on the Strategic Approach from a health-sector perspective, including further opportunities for action,

1. *Recognizes* the fundamental importance of collecting information to identify the hazardous chemicals to which populations are exposed, in particular those that have special vulnerability, identifying effective interventions on chemicals of major public health concern, and enhancing local arrangements for the public health management of chemical emergencies;

2. *Also recognizes,* to that end, the critical importance of building capacity at the local level to recognize, monitor and mitigate the impacts of chemicals on human health, with the development of indicators; this may include but not be limited to the development or strengthening of centres and networks of expertise, to share information and experience gained by countries that have successfully promoted effective actions;

3*. Emphasizes* the need to engage fully the health sector in national, regional and international Strategic Approach forums and in particular in the national inter‑ministerial processes called for in paragraph 23 of the Overarching Policy Strategy and, with that in mind, also emphasizes the essential cross-sectoral responsibilities of national focal points;

4. *Also emphasizes* the importance of regional health and environment inter‑ministerial processes as a springboard for effective intersectoral actions;

5*. Encourages* the health sector to take full advantage of the Strategic Approach institutional arrangements, for example by including health priorities in national Strategic Approach implementation plans, gaining access to Quick Start Programme funding, leading or participating in ministerial coordination on problems of a multisectoral nature, and using regional and international Strategic Approach forums to engage with other sectors in the sound management of chemicals;

6*. Underlines* the need for all stakeholders to assist in the development of resources to permit a greater degree of sectoral balance in representation in Strategic Approach forums and in implementation activities;

7*. Calls* *upon* the health sector to participate actively in actions to implement the decisions of the Conference in respect of identified emerging policy issues;

8*. Invites* the World Health Organization to intensify its activities in the sound management of chemicals in support of the Strategic Approach, in particular at regional and country levels and including the strengthening or establishment of information networks;

9*. Invites* the Strategic Approach secretariat to develop in consultation with the World Health Organization and within available resources astrategy for strengthening the engagement of the health sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach during the intersessional period for consideration at the third session of the Conference;

10*. Invites* the World Health Assembly to consider endorsingthe outcomes of the present session of the International Conference regarding human health.