



## Elimination of lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem

The Fiftieth World Health Assembly,

Deeply concerned at the widening spread and increased distribution of lymphatic filariasis throughout the world in both urban and rural areas and concerned that it affects all ages and both sexes;

Appreciating with grave concern the human suffering, social stigma and costs to society associated with lymphatic filariasis morbidity;

Recognizing that there is a general lack of awareness concerning this disease and its impact on health status, and that there are insufficient data on its prevalence and distribution;

Welcoming the recent studies which have defined new, simplified, highly effective strategies;

Acknowledging that an international task force on disease eradication has recently identified lymphatic filariasis as one of only six "potentially eradicable" infectious diseases,

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to take advantage of recent advances in the understanding of lymphatic filariasis and the new opportunities for its elimination by developing national plans leading to its elimination, as well as for the monitoring and evaluation of programme activities;

(2) to strengthen local programmes and their integration with the control of other diseases, particularly at the community level, in order to implement simple, affordable, acceptable and sustainable activities based on community-wide treatment strategies, but supplemented where feasible by vector control and improved sanitation;

(3) to strengthen training, research, diagnostic laboratory, disease and data management capabilities in order to improve clinical, epidemiological and operational activities directed toward eliminating lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem;

(4) to mobilize support of all relevant sectors, affected communities and nongovernmental organizations for the elimination of the disease;

2. INVITES other specialized agencies of the United Nations system, bilateral development agencies, nongovernmental organizations and other groups concerned, to increase cooperation in the elimination of

lymphatic filariasis through support of national and international programmes relevant to the prevention and elimination of lymphatic filariasis;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to bring to the attention of the other specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, bilateral development agencies, nongovernmental organizations and other groups concerned the need for closer collaboration in the elimination of lymphatic filariasis as a public health problem;
- (2) to mobilize support for global and national elimination activities;
- (3) to keep the Executive Board and Health Assembly informed as necessary of progress in the implementation of this resolution.

Ninth plenary meeting, 13 May 1997  
A50/VR/9

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