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XVIII Regional Committee Meeting



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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN DRUG POLICIES

Item proposed by the Government of Chile

There is no doubt that medicaments is a major item in the cost of health activities of which they are an indispensable tool, and that these activities continue to be urgently needed in the Hemisphere. Advances in this field are so great that it is very difficult at the present time for drugs to be produced except by large-scale undertakings. On the other hand, the industrial concerns producing generic drugs and pharmaceutical preparations usually multiply their products, for obvious reasons, and thereby create commercial situations in which the countries have difficulties in obtaining at a reasonable price a supply of drugs which are adequate in quantity and quality.

Both WHO and PAHO in the Hemisphere have been actively and usefully concerning themselves with various aspects of the drug problem, which activities have been stimulated by the present authorities of the Organization. However, this collaboration should be given greater stimulus, and greater scope, and should include assistance in obtaining an appropriate and socially advisable supply. Hence, the Government of Chile considers it advisable to present the following

RESOLUTION:

To congratulate the Organization on its activities aimed at stimulating and improving the control of medicaments and on the assistance it is giving in organizing laboratories for the quality control of medicaments;

To request the Director of the Bureau to examine, by appropriate means, the problem of the supply of generic drugs and pharmaceutical preparations so as to obtain a better technical and social return from the resources invested in them;

To request the Director to service the requests for technical assistance submitted by Member Countries for standardizing their present systems for the supply and control of medicaments;

To request the Director of the Bureau to establish machinery for informing Member Governments about matters of drug policy and regulation; on new products of proven utility; and, in general, on progress in theoretical and applied pharmacology;

To recommend that appropriate machinery be established in this field to ensure the coordination of the activities of the Organization in this field and those of international and government agencies, both in the Hemisphere and elsewhere.