

EB43.R21 Smallpox Eradication

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report of the Director-General on the smallpox eradication programme;

Noting that, while significant progress is being made in the eradication effort, not all endemic countries have yet initiated programmes, and that in some countries programmes are not yet proceeding at the pace necessary to assure success in the effort; and

Noting the importance of more complete and prompt reporting of cases and improved surveillance techniques,

1. REITERATES the need for all countries to give the highest possible priority to the provision of funds and personnel to achieve eradication;
2. REQUESTS Member States to provide continued support to the programme, including vaccine and assistance in the context of bilateral aid;
3. REQUESTS all countries with endemic smallpox to strengthen their programmes through more intensive surveillance, assessment, and case investigation activities;
4. REQUESTS endemic countries in particular to take special care to ensure that only freeze-dried vaccine is employed which meets the potency requirements established by WHO;
5. REQUESTS the Director-General to continue to take all necessary steps to assure the maximum co-ordination of national efforts as well as support provided through international and bilateral agencies with the objective of achieving smallpox eradication as quickly as possible; and
6. REQUESTS the Director-General to report further on the progress of the smallpox eradication programme to the World Health Assembly and to the Executive Board.