

WHA26.29 Smallpox eradication programme

The Twenty-sixth World Health Assembly,

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

Appreciating the decisive contribution made to the global eradication effort by the many countries which have succeeded in eliminating endemic smallpox, and recognizing with gratitude the efforts being made by those where the disease still exists;

Noting with concern, however, that in some areas of the countries where endemic smallpox persists the situation presently appears more serious than in previous years;

Reaffirming, therefore, the necessity to make every possible effort to ensure the speedy progress of eradication and to maintain it where it is achieved,

1. REQUESTS all countries to give the highest priority to the smallpox eradication programme, with particular emphasis on active surveillance, so as to interrupt transmission of the disease at the earliest possible time in the areas where it is still endemic and to prevent reoccurrence of the disease in countries from which it has been eliminated;
2. REQUESTS the Director-General to continue to give all necessary assistance to the countries concerned in order to support and accelerate national eradication efforts, to determine through independent evaluation whether eradication has actually been achieved, and to identify the additional resources, both national and international, which may be required for the successful completion of the programme; and
3. THANKS the countries that have generously contributed to the programme, either bilaterally or through the WHO Voluntary Fund for Health Promotion, in the confident hope that continued support will be provided to the programme, especially during the critical years ahead.