

FORUM: Economic and Social Council

QUESTION OF: Implementing Measures to Stimulate Economies Affected by Health Epidemics

MAIN-SUBMITTED BY: France

CO-SUBMITTED BY: Georgia, Pakistan, Uganda, Honduras, Japan, Haiti, Turkmenistan, China, Zimbabwe, United States of America, Benin, Kuwait, DR Congo, UK, India, Australia, Finland, Ghana, Russian Federation, Panama, Sweden, Brazil, Nepal, Bolivia

The Economic and Social Council,

Defining a health epidemic as the occurrence in a region of cases of an illness, specific health-related behavior, or other health-related events in excess of normal expectancy and where the period is specified precisely and thus can vary,

Realizing that emerging and re-emerging epidemic diseases pose an on-going threat to global health security,

Acknowledging that health epidemics have roamed the world since the beginning of humanity, such as the appearance of smallpox, the flu of 1918, Cholera, AIDS and Ebola,

Noting with satisfaction that in response to the Ebola epidemic of 2014, the UN set up an emergency response mission called UNMEER, which was established after the unanimous adoption of the General Assembly resolution 69/1,

Noting with deep concern that there have been no similar resolutions in the past aiming to tackle this problem,

Viewing with appreciation the active role the World Health Organisation (WHO) has played in preventing and fighting against health epidemics,

Recognizing that an epidemic occurs when a disease affects a greater number of people than is usual for the locality or one that spreads to areas usually not associated with the disease, whereas a pandemic is an epidemic of world-wide proportions,

Taking into account the conclusions of the 3rd WHO report on neglected tropical diseases, which state that the allocation of resources in health promotion and diseases prevention is a good investment for national and regional development,

Welcoming initiatives by per example the Federal Republic of Germany such as GISAID, that helps promote global collaboration on influenza viruses research, in order to urgently gain a better understanding of the epidemiology and evolution of the currently circulating viruses,

1. Requests relevant Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) as well as the governments of nations that are affected or susceptible to epidemics to spread education to the populace, regarding the leading causes, symptoms, preventions and treatments of the illness, by:
 - a) informing the public through widespread media such as, but not limited to:
 - i. television,
 - ii. newspapers,
 - iii. posters,
 - iv. brochures,
 - v. the Internet,
 - b) adding this relevant information to the curriculum of all primary and secondary schools in affected or susceptible areas,
 - c) collaborating with local churches, mosques and other cultural or religious places in order to inform more people,
 - d) setting up campaigns with trained specialists and volunteer medical providers that visit the affected countries, with the goal to educate rural areas, specifically their youth by:
 - i. holding seminars,
 - ii. setting up public gatherings
 - iii. visiting schools;
2. Encourages governments that are affected by health epidemics to accelerate the establishment of national procedures such as strengthening the health sector to review and provide:
 - a) rapid diagnosis and monitoring of suspected cases of infection by placing them in quarantine,
 - b) treatment measures including vaccines,
 - c) effective medical services for responders,
 - d) strengthened preventive and prepared measures to detect, work against and respond to the exposure of the epidemic,
 - e) coordinate, with aid from member states, the delivery and employment of international assistance and humanitarian relief supplies such as:
 - i. field hospitals,
 - ii. qualified expertise,
 - iii. staff and supplies,
 - iv. laboratory services,
 - v. construction support,
 - vi. aeromedical services;
3. Supports the improvement of infrastructures, initiated by NGOs and governments of affected countries that can request for financial aid to the World Bank, such as but not limited to:
 - a) construction and maintenance of medical facilities in affected areas, including clinics and pharmacies partially financed by MEDCs,

- b) advanced medical transport systems such as mobile medical units,
 - c) fully equipping hospitals with the required machinery and medications for prone illnesses,
 - d) installation of technological medias such as telemedicine and the Internet to facilitate the communication and treatment in these areas;
4. Recommends that member countries and the UNESCO work to improve access to trained medical personnel by but not limited to:
- a) providing loans to underprivileged medical students on the condition that they work locally to pay off the debt,
 - b) issuing extra incentives to motivate local doctors and medical students to work in areas affected by health epidemics such as:
 - i. higher wages,
 - ii. bonuses for every additional year of practice in these areas,
 - c) constructing educational systems such as medical schools and institutions for local graduates in vulnerable member states by looking to the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) and WHO for educational standards;
5. Asks the WHO to work towards making medication more affordable and more rapidly available in Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) through means such as:
- a) calculating new prices with the help of the WHO with indicators including:
 - i. production costs,
 - ii. transport costs,
 - iii. profit,
 - b) subsidizing the goods, in accordance with the government, if the price according to the above factors is still deemed expensive by the evaluation of the WHO;
6. Urges all member states to help countries previously affected by health epidemics to transition back from isolation, through means such as but not limited to:
- a) lifting general travel and border restrictions imposed on the affected countries to enable the free movement of people and trade,
 - b) calling on airlines and shipping companies to maintain trade and transport links with the affected countries and wider region;
7. Invites member states to maintain the economies of affected, quarantined areas through temporary means such as:
- a) ensuring to assess the area through an Import Risk Analyses before placing a quarantine,
 - b) regulating the quantity of production of goods meant for exports as well as domestic consumption in order to stabilize prices,
 - c) increasing government spending,

- d) encouraging, through the government, to increase consumer spending through means such as:
 - i. lowering taxes,
 - ii. providing subsidies,
 - iii. decreasing interest;
 - 8. Calls upon States and international organizations to aid, in particular, developing countries in order to accelerate efforts to provide sanitary, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all by providing,
 - a) financial resources,
 - b) capacity-building,
 - c) technology transfer;
 - 9. Encourages Member States and relevant UN organizations to increase their efforts to advance development and transfer appropriate technologies in and to affected countries by:
 - a) supporting national efforts to foster the utilization of local capabilities and technology,
 - b) promote agricultural research and technologies to enable rural men and women to increase agrarian productivity and enhanced food security through means such as:
 - i. underlining the need for member states to make knowledge in the field and agricultural innovation more accessible,
 - ii. calling for increased productive investment in rural and agricultural development,
 - iii. urging for the enhanced support for agricultural development and trade-capacity building in the agricultural sector,
 - c) suggests the support for commodity development project, especially market based ones,
 - d) asking public and private institutions to develop improved varieties of crops that are suitable for various regions and manage them in appropriate manners;
 - 10. Calls for the creation of a committee, which would host assemblies in order to:
 - a) host annual conferences to discuss specific goal settings, including:
 - i. the economic restoration and aid for countries struck by health epidemics,
 - ii. future prevention of these illnesses,
 - b) request emergency meetings for recent, severe outbreaks as well as search assistance of medical NGOs;
 - 11. Strongly urges that countries affected by health epidemics implement import duties on primary goods to protect their own basic industries and encourage local development in order to stabilize the economy;
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12. Further calls for all member states to commit to fair play between countries

to:

- a) Achieve the objectives in a trustworthy way,
- b) Preserve a country's sovereignty and respect it.