



Constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO): An overview

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DESCRIPTION

The Constitution was adopted at the International Health Conference in New York from 19 June to 22 July 1946, signed by representatives of 61 states on 22 July 1946, and It came into action on 7 April 1948. The State parties to this Constitution declare, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, that the following principles are the basis to the happiness, well-being, harmonious relationships and security of all people. Health is a state of perfect physical, mental condition and social well-being but not the lack of illness and frailty. Enjoying the highest possible level of health is one of the fundamental rights of all human beings, regardless of race, religion, political opinion, and economic or social situation. The health of all people is the basic fundamental for achieving peace and security which depends on the utmost cooperation between individuals and the nation. State achievements in promoting and protecting health are of value to all. Unequal developments in different countries in promoting health and controlling illnesses especially infectious diseases are a common danger.

The development of a healthy child is of basic importance. The ability to live in harmony in a changing overall environment is essential for such development. To achieve full health, it is essential to extend the benefits of medical, psychological, and related knowledge to all people. Informed opinions and active participation of the general public are paramount to improving people's health. The government is responsible for the health of the people, which can only be met by providing adequate health and social care. With the aim of recognizing these principles and working with others to promote and protect the health of all, the contracting parties have agreed to this Constitution, thereby making the establishment of World Health Organization as a specialized institution within the scope of Article 57 of charter of the United Nations.

Functions

The goal of the World Health Organization (hereinafter referred to as the Organization) is to achieve the highest possible health level for all. To achieve that goal, the main functions of the organization shall be: To act as a guiding and coordinating body for international health activities; To establish and maintain effective partnerships with the United Nations, specialized institutions, national health administrations, expert groups, and as other organizations may be deemed appropriate; To assist governments in strengthening health services; To providing appropriate technical and necessary assistance in emergencies with the request of government; To provide or support the provision of medical services and facilities to special groups, such as those in trust territories, at the request of the United Nations

To establish and maintain any management and technical services that may be needed, including epidemiological and statistical services; To encourage and promote activities to eradicate epidemics endemic and other illnesses. If necessary, work with other specialized institutions to help prevent accidental injuries; To promote improvements in nutrition, shelter, hygiene, recreation, economic or working conditions, and other aspects of environmental health when necessary by working with other specialized agencies; To promote cooperation between scientific and professional groups that contribute to health promotion; To propose treaties, agreements and regulations, and make recommendations related to international health issues, thereby performing functions that are given to the organization and are in line with its purpose; To promote the health and well-being of mothers and children and promote their ability to live in harmony in a changing overall environment.

To promote activities in the field of mental health, especially those related to interpersonal harmony; To promote and implement research in the field of health; To promote improvements in education and training standards in health, medical and related professions, by working with other specialized agencies where necessary

to investigate and report management and social practices that impact public health and health care from a preventive and therapeutic perspective such as hospital services and social security; To provide health information, advice and support; To assist in developing informed public opinion among all people on health issues; To establish international nomenclature for illness, causes of death and public health practices and revise to standardize diagnostic procedures as needed; To Develop, implement and promote international standards related to food, bio-pharmacy and related products. Usually, takes all necessary steps to achieve organization's goals.

CONCLUSION

The preamble defines health positively, as complete physical, mental and social wellbeing not merely

negatively as the absence of disease or infirmity. The Preamble goes on to analyse the obligation of nations to contribute the health of their people. This obligation is not imposed from the outside but follows from the fundamental right of every human being and therefore, of humanity as a whole. The Preamble acknowledges another precondition for accomplishing WHO's task as the responsibility of governments for the health of their people can be met only by the provision of adequate health and social measures. This means that not only government action but also social and economic measures are needed if the responsibility of states for the health of their people is to be fulfilled. This suggests awareness of the need for flexibility in the development of health policies.