

FORTY-FOURTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY GENEVA, 6-16 MAY 1991
WHA44.34 Traditional medicine and modern health care

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The Forty-fourth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the Director-General's report on traditional medicine and modern health care;¹

Recalling resolutions [WHA22.54](#), [WHA29.72](#), [WHA30.49](#), [WHA40.33](#), [WHA41.19](#), and [WHA42.43](#);

Aware of the accepted crucial importance of traditional medicine in many societies;

Recognizing the important contribution of traditional medicine to the provision of essential care;

Acknowledging the role of traditional medicine in the treatment of illness by informed self-medication;

Cognizant of the potential medical and economic value of plant substances;

Mindful of the fact that many species of medicinal plants are threatened by ecological and environmental changes,

1. NOTES with satisfaction the progress made in the development of the programme of traditional medicine;
2. REITERATES that a substantial increase in national and international funding and support is needed to enable traditional medicine to take its rightful place in health care;
3. URGES Member States:
 - (1) to intensify activities leading to cooperation between those providing traditional medicine and modern health care, respectively, especially as regards the use of scientifically proven, safe and effective traditional remedies to reduce national drug costs;
 - (2) to introduce measures for the regulation and control of acupuncture methods;
4. REQUESTS the Director-General:
 - (1) to continue to recognize the great importance of this programme and to mobilize increased financial and technical support as required;
 - (2) to ensure that the contribution of scientifically proven traditional medicine is fully exploited within all the WHO programmes where plant-derived and other natural products may lead to the discovery of new therapeutic substances;
 - (3) to seek appropriate partnerships with governmental bodies and nongovernmental organizations as well as with industry in implementing this resolution;
 - (4) to keep the Executive Board and the Health Assembly informed of the progress made in the implementation of the programme of traditional medicine.

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Committee A, fourth report)