

**ECONOMIC
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INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE VII (SCOPE AND FUNCTIONS)

Final Report of the Drafting Sub-Committee

Proposed Text

I. PREAMBLE

THE STATES parties to this Convention, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, declare that the following principles are basic to the happiness, harmonious relations and security of all peoples:

1. Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.
2. The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being, without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.
3. The health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security and is dependent upon the fullest co-operation of individuals and States.
4. The achievement of any State in the promotion and protection of health is of value to all.
5. Unequal development in different countries in the promotion of health and control of disease, especially communicable disease, is a common danger.
6. Healthy development of the child is of basic importance.
7. The extension to all peoples of the benefits of medical, psychological and related knowledge is essential to the fullest attainment of health.
8. Informed opinion and active co-operation on the part of the public are of the utmost importance in the improvement of the health of the people.

9. Governments have a responsibility for the health of their peoples which can be met only by the provision of adequate health and social measures.

ACCEPTING THESE PRINCIPLES, the parties to this Convention, for the purpose of co-operation among themselves and with others to promote and protect the health of all peoples, hereby establish the World Health Organization as a specialized agency, whose Constitution is embodied in the following Articles.

II. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the World Health Organization shall be the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health.

III. FUNCTIONS

In order to achieve its objective, the functions of the World Health Organization shall be:

- (a) to act as the directing and co-ordinating authority on international health;
- (b) to establish and maintain effective collaboration with the United Nations, specialized agencies, governmental health administrations, professional groups, and such other organizations as may be deemed appropriate;
- (c) to assist governments, upon request, in strengthening health services;
- (d) to furnish appropriate technical assistance and, in emergencies, to give necessary aid at the request of governments or on acceptance of such aid by them;
- (e) to provide or assist in providing, upon the request of the United Nations, health services and facilities to special groups, such as the peoples of trust territories;
- (f) to establish and maintain such administrative and technical services as may be required including epidemiological and statistical services;
- (g) to stimulate and advance work to eradicate epidemic, endemic or other diseases, especially those of major social importance;
- (h) to promote where necessary, in co-operation with other specialized agencies or otherwise, the prevention of accidental injuries;

- (i) to promote, in co-operation with specialized agencies or otherwise, the improvement of nutrition, housing, sanitation, recreation, economic or working condition, and other aspects of environmental hygiene;
- (j) to promote co-operation among those scientific and professional groups which contribute to the advancement of health;
- (k) to propose conventions, agreements, and regulations, and make recommendations with respect to international health matters and to perform such duties as may be assigned thereby to the Organization and are consistent with its objective;
- (l) to promote maternal and child health and welfare;
- (m) to foster activities in the field of mental health, especially those affecting the harmony of human relations;
- (n) to promote research in the field of health, (notably in providing the necessary material means);
- (o) to promote improved standards of teaching and training in the health, medical and related professions;
- (p) to study and report on, in co-operation with other specialized agencies or otherwise, administrative and social techniques affecting public health and medical care from a preventive and curative point of view, including hospital services and social security;
- (q) to provide information, counsel and assistance in the field of health;
- (r) to assist in developing an informed public opinion among all peoples on matters of health;
- (s) to develop, establish and promote international standards with respect to food, pharmaceutical, biological and related products;
- (t) to standardize diagnostic procedures as necessary;
- (u) to establish and revise as necessary international nomenclatures of diseases, of causes of death and of public health practices; and
- (v) generally to take all necessary action to attain the objective of the Organization.
