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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Global strategy for health for all by the year 2000

Note by the Secretary-General

1. At its thirty-fourth session, the General Assembly, by resolution 34/58 of 29 November 1979, requested the Director-General of the World Health Organization, after the sixty-seventh session of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization and the thirty-fourth World Health Assembly, to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council, at the appropriate session of 1981, on the progress achieved in the formulation of the global health strategy and called upon the Council, in turn, to submit recommendations for further action by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.
2. Accordingly, the Director-General of WHO submitted a progress report on the global strategy for health for all by the year 2000 to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session in 1981 (E/1981/88).
3. In presenting the report, the Director-General of WHO pointed out that the Global Strategy adopted by the thirty-fourth World Health Assembly in resolution WHA34.36 was based on national and regional strategies which had preceded it. The World Health Assembly referred to the Strategy as a "solemn agreement" for health whose implementation requires the combined efforts of Governments, people and WHO. He described the main pillars of the Strategy as: the mutual contribution to the development of action in health and other relevant social and economic sectors; an equitable distribution of health resources, leading to universal access to primary health care and its supporting services; application of health technology that is scientifically sound, adaptable to local circumstances, acceptable to those for and by whom it is applied and maintainable with the resources the country can afford; and community involvement in shaping its own health and socio-economic future. He noted, moreover, that sound health system infrastructures are essential to ensure

that primary health care reached all populations; their development is therefore the core of the Strategy. The Director-General of WHO emphasized that the implementation of the Strategy required political commitment at highest national and international levels and must rely on the close collaboration of the organizations of the United Nations system.

4. Following consideration of the progress report, the Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1981/61 of 23 July 1981, commended to the attention of the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session the full text of the Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000 1/ and recommended the text of a draft resolution on the subject for adoption by the General Assembly at that session (see A/36/3/Add.28).

1/ Copies of the Global Strategy for Health for All by the Year 2000, prepared by WHO, issued as a publication, will be made available to Members of the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.