Regional Consultation on the 11th General Program of Work of the World Health Organization

February 14-16

Summary of Meeting Discussions
Overview

- Objective: Provide regional input into the formulation of the 11th GPW
  - Ten year plan of work to coincide with the MDGs (2015)
  - Define strategic directions for the work of the WHO, Member States and Secretariat
  - Regional Consultation to take place in all regions between Feb-March 2005
  - Outline of GPW has been presented to Regional Committees (2004) and Executive Board in January 2005
  - Scenarios and four initial background papers presented to participants to help shape the discussions
Opening Plenary

Critical Issues for WHO for 2006-2015

1. Global Health: *Improve Quality of Life, Reduce Inequities in Health, Attain the MDGs, Contribute to Human Security, Advance Health as a Human Right*

2. Global Health Governance: *Build Consensus on the Global Collective Intentionally in Health, Develop a Strong Global Public Health Movement & Leadership, Increase Harmonization and Alignment in International Cooperation in Health*

3. Define Roles and Responsibilities for WHO: *Setting Norms and Standards, Involvement in Humanitarian Assistance and Relief Efforts, Build Capacity at Country Level, Promote the Right investments in Health.*
Session 1: Positioning Health in the Political, Economic, Social and Development Agenda

- Different approaches around the concept of health are described in the background paper: gender and equity, relationships with development (incl. economics), global public good, collective and individual security, human rights and social justice.
- Need for a distinction between values, health problems and their determinants, and strategies for the future.
- Interdependency of health with other sectors.
- Necessity to reach consensus on the following issues: evolution of concepts of health and public health, main health priorities, health linkages beyond the health sector, and response from the health sector to these challenges.
Session 2: Health Situation, Challenges and Opportunities

- The main challenges and opportunities, at global and national levels, are identified in the background paper.
- Power of data for understanding population’s health and highlighting health inequities, to better guide the setting of health policies.
- Strengthen of national health information systems and assessment of the impact of health interventions.
- Setting priorities at global level, that could be useful at other levels: regional, subregional or national.
- Need for WHO to play a leading role in strengthening partnerships in international health issues to address more effectively its distinctive challenges and opportunities.

Enhance the consultative process within countries and with other stakeholders, including civil society.
Session 3: Global Health Agenda and Global Governance in Health

- The background paper describes strategic issues to be considered for defining high level goals and is proposing a preliminary set of goals.
- The MDGs, approved by 189 countries, are setting a new global development agenda with focus on health.
- WHO is no more the only decision body at global level. Its leadership role must be strengthened.
- WHO needs to define its specific role to ensure harmonization and alignment in setting the health agenda, defining priorities, channeling resources, facilitating implementation and articulating the initiatives of multiple partners.
- Health is a key factor for peace and human security.
Session 4: Roles and Responsibilities of WHO in the Next 10 Years

- The background paper defines new ways of working for WHO, its core functions and identifies strategic choices.
- Need to redefine the core functions of WHO given the new global health environment.
- Roles of HQ, regional and country offices need to be addressed, in relation with new mechanisms of cooperation.
- WHO should provide technical expertise or use national capacities for technical cooperation?
- Using disaster response and preparedness as an example, the need for capacity building and investing in preparedness and prevention has been highlighted.
Session 5: Global Public Goods and Their Implications for the Work of WHO in the Next 10 Years

- Some concepts in relationship to health were discussed, as well as some examples of meritorious and public goods.
- Identify the GPG that are of importance for countries.
- Provide and distribute information and knowledge.
- Provide support to member states in developing capacity to negotiate in international agreements, treaties, and commitments.
- Support the design and execution of studies for economic evaluation and health impact.
- Define the concept of GPG in health and its implications for the work of WHO and Member States.
Session 6: WHO Harmonization, Alignment and Coordination

- Recent harmonization initiatives were presented as well as issues that could have an impact on the health sector.
- The health sector, and WHO, must have a proactive role.
- The health sector should take the lead at national level.
- Building capacities for national ownership, and alignment and harmonization processes that would benefit to the health sector and health of the population (MDGs).
- Facilitate better coordination among international cooperation.
- Ensure proper flow of information to Member States.
- Articulating health agendas between different levels.
Conclusion

• This consultation is the first step in obtaining input from the Regions on the substance of the GPW.
• Summaries of the discussions will be provided to the participants for review, before transmitted to WHO.
• Background papers will continue to be revised based on the input from the regional consultations.
• Member states are encouraged to obtain further input at country level.
• An information on the process will be made during the WHA.
• First draft to be presented at next Directing Council (2005).