

EB87.R23 WHO fellowships

The Executive Board,

Recalling resolutions WHA11.37 and EB71.R6 on the fellowship programme and policy;

Recognizing that a substantial amount of the regular budget is invested in the fellowship programme as part of human resources development activities;

Concerned that despite the progress in implementing resolution EB71.R6 such progress has been uneven, making it difficult to assess properly the effectiveness of the fellowship programme;

Further concerned that a number of the provisions of resolution EB71.R6 have still not been generally implemented, including those which, inter alia, call for the development of national policies on human resources that provide for the use of a wide variety of training mechanisms with emphasis on in-country training, and those which call for measures to ensure that all fellowships have clearly defined objectives and contribute to the attainment of health for all;

1. WELCOMES the Director-General's report on the implementation of WHO's policy on fellowships;
2. ENDORSES the conclusions contained therein;
3. URGES Member States:
 - (1) to take demonstrable steps to ensure the relevance of WHO fellowships to their health resource needs and national health development;
 - (2) to recognize, when selecting candidates for fellowships, the importance in particular of nurses and midwives in the health team, especially for primary health care;
 - (3) to introduce or strengthen mechanisms recommended in resolution EB71.R6 in the manner most appropriate to their established policies for planning, developing managing their human resources for health;
 - (4) to evaluate, as appropriate, their use of fellowship provisions in order to ensure that their selection mechanisms are effective and that returning fellows are utilized in the best interest of the national health system;
4. REQUESTS the Director-General:
 - (1) to continue to strengthen the role of the Organization at all levels in the review of fellowship applications, in order to ensure that they conform to the Organization's policy and are relevant to the requesting countries' priority needs;
 - (2) to facilitate coordination and the exchange of information between country, regional and global levels of the Organization and the national fellowship units in order to ensure consistency in the interpretation of procedures and mechanisms;

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(3) to continue efforts, in close cooperation with Member States, to improve, monitor and evaluate the fellowship programme so as to ensure its relevance to national health development, with particular emphasis on the development of criteria for the effective use of fellowships and the utilization of fellows;

(4) to report on progress periodically.

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