



**An Analysis of The World Health Organization
Secretariat's Draft Global Strategy and Plan of
Action on Public Health, Innovation and
Intellectual Property**

For the Intergovernmental Working Group, WHO/ Geneva

By
Jeremiah Norris
Director
Center for Science in Public Policy
Hudson Institute
Washington, D. C.

September 27, 2007

Summary

This report has to be seen in light of the fact that increased population growth rates in the developing world moved from some 2.4 billion in 1960 to an estimated 4.9 billion in 2006 (out of a total population of 6.7 billion). UNICEF stated: “we’re at the tipping point; a public health triumph has arisen, predicting further drops.”

Although the UNICEF data was not released until this September, those who believe deeply and rightly in the WHO mandate might well have expected the Organization to be ahead of the curve on data so critical to its case on neglected diseases. There still remain painful pockets of childhood mortality, mainly within failed states, and we must not insulate national leadership from responsibility and accountability to their own people. The prestigious Carter Center reports that it could have eradicated global guinea worm at this time had it not been for the leaders of these countries prohibiting it from patient treatment. Even when medications and vaccines can be made available free of charge, getting them to patients caught up in the maw of civil conflicts is a daunting task.

There is nothing in WHO’s Plan of Action which will ameliorate that situation. Governmental leaders that neglect the health needs of their own children commit human rights abuses.