

## Effects of nuclear war on public health

### **Draft resolution proposed by Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Fiji, Guatemala, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), New Zealand, Peru, Samoa and Vanuatu**

The Seventy-eighth World Health Assembly,

(PP1) Having considered the consolidated report by the Director-General;<sup>1</sup>

(PP2) Reaffirming the principle enshrined in the Constitution of the World Health Organization that the health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security;

(PP3) Noting United Nations General Assembly resolutions 34/58 (1979), 38/188 J (1983) and 40/10 (1985), and also resolutions WHA34.38 (1981), WHA36.28 (1983), and WHA77.9 (2024) stressing the close interrelationship between health and the preservation and promotion of peace;

(PP4) Noting the 1983 report *Effects of nuclear war on health and health services*<sup>2</sup> prepared by the International Committee of Experts in Medical Sciences established by the Director-General in conformity with resolution WHA34.38, the second 1987 report on the same topic prepared by the WHO Management Group on follow-up of resolution WHA36.28, and the 1993 report *Health and environmental effects of nuclear weapons* prepared by the Director-General in conformity with resolution WHA46.40;

(PP5) Recalling the ultimate goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons and that the elimination of nuclear weapons is a high priority for international peace and security;

(PP6) Noting that, at the United Nations Summit of the Future on 22 September 2024, Member States expressed concern about the growing risks of a nuclear war, which could pose an existential threat to humanity, and deep concern over the state of nuclear disarmament, recommitted to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and committed to strengthening the disarmament and non-proliferation architecture and work to prevent any erosion of existing international norms and take all possible steps to prevent nuclear war;

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<sup>1</sup> Document A78/4.

<sup>2</sup> World Health Assembly, 36 (A36/INF.DOC./18) (1983). [Effects of nuclear war on health and health services](#). World Health Organization (accessed 15 May 2025).

(PP7) Noting United Nations General Assembly resolution 79/238 (2024), *Nuclear war effects and scientific research*, in which the General Assembly requests the United Nations Secretary-General to convene an independent Scientific Panel on the Effects of Nuclear War to examine such effects and calls upon the United Nations system and relevant agencies, including WHO, to support the work of the Panel, by contributing expertise, commissioned studies, data and papers,

(OP)1. REQUESTS the Director-General:

- (1) to update the World Health Organization reports “Effects of nuclear war on health and health services” (1983 and 1987) and the report “Health and environmental effects of nuclear weapons” (1993) and in this regard, collect and analyse existing related studies;
- (2) to this end, where appropriate, to cooperate with relevant stakeholders in line with the Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors, as applicable, and other United Nations bodies and international organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates; and
- (3) to report on progress in the implementation of this resolution to the Health Assembly in 2029;

(OP)2. ENCOURAGES Member States, in accordance with the national contexts and legal frameworks, to support the work of the Director-General.

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