

DECISION ON POLIO ERADICATION IN AFRICA

The Executive Council:

- 1. TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
- 2. RESOLVES** to:
 - i) BREAK** the final chains of polio transmission in Africa by reaching every child during polio immunization campaigns in 2003 if certification by 2005 is to be achieved;
 - ii) ACHIEVE** and sustain certification-standard quality polio surveillance in all African countries to rapidly detect and control polio virus importations;
 - iii) IMPROVE** routine immunization services to protect against the potentially catastrophic consequences of polio virus importation into polio-free areas;
 - iv) INITIATE** the process of documentation necessary to eventually certify the countries of the African continent as polio-free;
 - v) CONTINUE** to build on the human, physical and institutional infrastructure established for polio eradication, to enhance the control of other serious diseases in the African continent;
 - vi) ALLOCATE** the necessary domestic resources, and **CALL FOR** the support of the international community including Rotary International to ensure that all African children are protected from this crippling disease, forever;
 - vii) MOBILIZE** the required financial resources for 2003-2005, estimated at US\$267 million;
 - viii) REVIEW** the progress made in the certification of a polio-free Africa at each session of the Conference of the AU Ministers of Health until such time as this historic goal is achieved.
 - ix) REQUEST** the Chairperson of the AU Commission in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF to report annually to the Assembly of the African Union on the progress made in eradicating polio from Africa.