

Health emergency in Ukraine and refugee-receiving and -hosting countries, stemming from the Russian Federation's aggression

The Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report by the Director-General requested in resolution WHA75.11 (2022);¹

Noting the decision of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe to close the WHO European Office for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in Moscow and to request the Secretariat to relocate its functions and management of activities to the WHO Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen, as soon as possible and no later than 1 January 2024;

Recalling the decision contained in resolution WHA75.11 (2022) that continued action by the Russian Federation to the detriment of the health situation in Ukraine, at regional and global levels, would necessitate that the Health Assembly should consider the application of relevant articles of the Constitution of the World Health Organization;

Recognizing the unprecedented challenges resulting from the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine;

Recognizing further the ongoing work of WHO, its implementing partners and other humanitarian organizations in addressing the health and humanitarian impacts of the Russian Federation's aggression in Ukraine, and the wider region,

Decided:

(1) to condemn in the strongest terms the Russian Federation's continued aggression against Ukraine, including attacks on health care facilities documented via the WHO's Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care (SSA), as well as widespread attacks on civilians and critical civilian infrastructure that have led to heavy casualties, and hampered access to health care;

(2) to express serious concerns over the continued health emergency in Ukraine and refugee-receiving and -hosting countries, triggered by the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, as well as the wider than regional health and humanitarian impacts including, inter alia, significant numbers of refugees fleeing Ukraine; the risks of radiological, biological and chemical events and hazards; and the exacerbation of an already significant global food security crisis;

¹ Document A76/12.

- (3) to draw attention to the fact that the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine continues to constitute exceptional circumstances, causing a serious impediment to the health of the population of Ukraine, as well as having regional and wider than regional health impacts;
- (4) to urge the Russian Federation to immediately cease any attacks on hospitals and other health care facilities, and fully respect and protect all medical personnel and humanitarian personnel engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, the sick and wounded, civilians, health and humanitarian aid workers, and health care systems;
- (5) to urge the relevant Member States to adhere to international humanitarian law, and international human rights law, as applicable, and WHO norms and standards and also allow and facilitate safe, rapid and unhindered access to populations in need of assistance by staff deployed by WHO on the ground, and by all other medical and humanitarian personnel;
- (6) to request the Director-General:
 - (a) to continue to implement resolution WHA75.11 (2022), entitled “Health emergency in Ukraine and refugee-receiving and -hosting countries, stemming from the Russian Federation’s aggression”;
 - (b) to report to the Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly in 2024, through the Executive Board at its 154th session, on the implementation of resolution WHA75.11 (2022), including an assessment of the direct and indirect impact of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine on the health of the population of Ukraine, as well as related regional and wider than regional health impacts including on its adverse effect on the attainment of the objective and functions of WHO.

Ninth plenary meeting, 30 May 2023
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