

**FORTIETH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY GENEVA, 4-15 MAY 1987**  
**WHA40.33 Traditional medicine**

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The Fortieth World Health Assembly,

Aware that traditional systems of medicine play an important role in preventive, promotive and curative aspects of health, particularly in developing countries;

Noting that there exists a vast reservoir of practitioners of traditional systems of medicine and an almost untapped wealth of medicinal flora;

Recalling the earlier resolutions of the Health Assembly concerning health manpower ([WHA29.72](#)), training and research in traditional medicine ([WHA30.49](#)) and medicinal plants ([WHA31.33](#)) and the related recommendations of the Alma-Ata Conference;

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to utilize optimally practitioners of their traditional systems of medicine in primary health care, whenever possible and appropriate;

(2) to initiate comprehensive programmes for the identification, evaluation, preparation, cultivation and conservation of medicinal plants used in traditional medicine;

(3) to ensure quality control of drugs derived from traditional plant remedies by using modern techniques and applying suitable standards and good manufacturing practices;

(4) to support research into traditional ways of treating ailments and promoting family health, nutrition and well-being;

(5) to extend cooperation and exchange of experts, skills and training in traditional systems of medicine and related fields, particularly between countries with a similar cultural background;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to mobilize extrabudgetary funds to assist Members in implementing these activities;

(2) to promote intercountry seminars to improve mutual understanding, the dissemination of knowledge and the exchange of experience.

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Committee A, fourth report)

