

WHA28.72 Utilization and supply of human blood and blood products

The Twenty-eighth World Health Assembly,

Conscious of the increasing use of blood and blood products;

Having considered the information provided by the Director-General on the utilization and supply of human blood and blood products; ¹

Bearing in mind resolution XVIII of the XXII International Conference of the Red Cross;

Noting the extensive and increasing activities of private firms in trying to establish commercial blood collection and plasmapheresis projects in developing countries;

Expressing serious concern that such activities may interfere with efforts to establish efficient national blood transfusion services based on voluntary nonremunerated donations;

Being aware of the higher risk of transmitting diseases when blood products have been obtained from paid rather than from voluntary donors, and of the harmful consequences to the health of donors of too frequent blood donations (one of the causes being remuneration),

1. THANKS the Director-General for the actions taken to study the problems related to commercial plasmapheresis in developing countries;

2. URGES Member States:

(1) to promote the development of national blood services based on voluntary nonremunerated donation of blood;

(2) to enact effective legislation governing the operation of blood services and to take other actions necessary to protect and promote the health of blood donors and of recipients of blood and blood products;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to increase assistance to Member States in the development of national blood services based on voluntary donations, when appropriate in collaboration with the League of Red Cross Societies;

(2) to assist in establishing cooperation between countries to secure adequate supply of blood products based on voluntary donations;

(3) to further study the practice of commercial plasmapheresis including the health hazards and ethical implications, particularly in developing countries;

(4) to take steps to develop good manufacturing practices specifically for blood and blood components in order to protect the health of both donors and recipients; and

(5) to report to the World Health Assembly on developments in these matters.

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