



Health and medical services in times of armed conflict

Report by the Director-General

This report is submitted in compliance with resolution WHA46.39 which requested the Director-General to report to the Forty-eighth World Health Assembly in 1995, through the Executive Board, on action taken by WHO to remedy situations where attacks on health personnel and medical facilities have occurred as a result of armed conflict.

The report also provides an account of recent violations of humanitarian principles, as they apply to the protection of medical establishments and units, recorded in selected WHO reports. The Board is requested to support further action to ensure the safety of health facilities.

APPLICATION OF RESOLUTION WHA46.39

1. Growing concern with violations of health and medical services in times of armed conflict prompted the Forty-sixth World Health Assembly in 1993 to adopt resolution WHA46.39, in which it:

- 1 *CONDEMNS all such acts;*
- 2 *CALLS on all parties to armed conflicts to fully adhere to and implement the rules of international humanitarian law .*
- 3 *STRONGLY URGES parties to armed conflicts to refrain from all acts that prevent or obstruct the provision or delivery of medical assistance and services,*
- 4 *APPEALS to all associations of medical, nursing and other health personnel actively to safeguard, promote and monitor strict adherence to established principles of medical ethics and to expose and take appropriate measures against infractions where they occur*

2. In compliance with resolution WHA46.39, WHO undertook the following:

- (1) in countries where there is armed conflict, WHO teams have advocated with all parties concerned, to the extent possible, the protection of medical staff and institutions so that they may carry out their activities with greater efficiency;