

RESOLUTION ON UNIVERSAL IMMUNIZATION IN AFRICA

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Twenty-third Ordinary Session, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 27 to 29 July 1987,

Cognisant of the fact that human resources in general and children in particular, constitute the main wealth of the continent,

Considering Declaration AHG/Sr.4/XVI on the Rights and Welfare of the African Child which recommends, inter-alia, the formulation and implementation of programmes in the field of health, nutrition and education, as part of national development plans, with a view to making the services universally accessible to all children within the shortest possible time,

Recalling the relevant decisions and recommendations adopted at different sessions of the United Nations Specialized Agencies, Bodies and International Organizations, as they relate to the rights of the child, including the objectives of the 1979 International Year of the Child,

Recalling also the proclamation of the year 1986 as Africa Immunization Year,

Taking into consideration resolution CAMH/Res. 6 (II) on the implementation of immunization programmes in Africa adopted by the Second Ordinary Session of the conference of African Ministers of Health, in April 1987 in Cairo, Egypt,

Noting with interest the progress accomplished by UNICEF and the International Community, in reducing child mortality and morbidity through, among other interventions, immunizations,

Mindful of the fact that in order to ensure the future development of the continent, African countries should provide the necessary resources to promote equitable growth of the African Child:

1. **WARMLY CONGRATULATES UNICEF to the international Community on efforts undertaken to safeguard the health and wellbeing of African children – the future custodians of the continent;**
2. **URGES Members States to reiterate their commitment to supporting programmes aimed at the protection, survival and development of the African Child;**
3. **DECIDES to declare 1986 as the Year of the Protection, Survival and Development of the African Child, using immunizations programme as a vehicle for achieving other wider goals;**
4. **CALLS UPON Member States to actively play a role in mobilizing national communities with a view to creating more awareness on the need for resources aimed at achieving the goals of Child Survival and Development in general, and, in particular, the 1990 Universal Child Immunization target;**
5. **FURTHER URGES Member States to ensure that national, sub-regional, regional and continental bodies continue to accord highest priority to matters relating to the survival and development of the African Child;**
6. **REQUESTS the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to report to the Forty-eighth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers on progress achieved in this endeavor;**
7. **FURTHER REQUESTS the UNICEF Executive Director to facilitate the implementation of this resolution through the mobilization of the necessary resources and to compliment educational and international efforts.**

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