The Eighteenth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Director-General on programme activities in the health aspects of world population which might be developed by WHO,¹

Bearing in mind Article 2 (1) of the Constitution which reads: "In order to achieve its objective, the functions of the Organization shall be... to promote maternal and child health and welfare and to foster the ability to live harmoniously in a changing total environment";

Noting resolution 1048 (XXXVII) adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its thirty-seventh session, in August 1964;

Believing that demographic problems require the consideration of economic, social, cultural, psychological and health factors in their proper perspective;

Noting that the United Nations Population Commission at its thirteenth session, in April 1965, attached high priority to the research and other activities in the field of fertility;

Considering that the changes in the size and structure of the population have repercussions on health conditions;

Recognizing that problems of human reproduction involve the family unit as well as society as a whole, and that the size of the family should be the free choice of each individual family;

Bearing in mind that it is a matter for national administrations to decide whether and to what extent they should support the provision of information and services to their people on the health aspects of human reproduction;

Accepting that it is not the responsibility of WHO to endorse or promote any particular population policy; and

Noting that the scientific knowledge with regard to the biology of human reproduction and the medical aspects of fertility control is insufficient,

1. **APPROVES** the report of the Director-General on programme activities in the health aspects of world population which might be developed by WHO;¹

2. **REQUESTS** the Director-General to develop further the programme proposed:
   
   (a) in the fields of reference services, studies on medical aspects of sterility and fertility control methods and health aspects of population dynamics; and

   (b) in the field of advisory services as outlined in Part III, paragraph 3, of his report,¹ on the understanding that such services are related, within the responsibilities of WHO, to technical advice on the health aspects of human reproduction and should not involve operational activities; and

3. **REQUESTS** the Director-General to report to the Nineteenth World Health Assembly on the programme of WHO in the field of human reproduction.

Handb. Res., 7th ed., 1.6.6; 8.1.2.4

*Thirteenth plenary meeting, 21 May 1965 (Committee on Programme and Budget, seventh report)*