

WHA61 - Agenda item A61/17

Progress Reports: Health Promotion in a Globalized World (resolution WHA60.24)

Statement
Submitted by the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices

The Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children is a membership organisation with presence in 28 African countries and has affiliates in Europe, Canada, Japan and the USA where African immigrants have settled. It focuses on harmful traditional practices as health hazards and violation of basic human rights.

Para 2(6) of Resolution WHA60.24 calls for the exchange of information with international non-health forums. For many years the Committee has been working with WHO in the field of health promotion individually and, with the support and encouragement of WHO, in coordination with a number of NGOs that form the NGO Advisory Group on Health Promotion.

We welcome Resolution WHA 60.24 and the Progress Report "Health Promotion in a Globalized World" and note with pleasure that WHO wishes to strengthen the capacity for health promotion across the Organization and at the regional level.

Our partners are mainly international NGOs, many of whom are present at the Assembly today, – all with grass roots affiliates and concerned with different aspects of health promotion. Our strength lies in the fact that we have encouraged NGOs, who normally are not involved in health, to include health promotion as part of their agendas.

The website of the NGO Advisory Group on Health Promotion at <http://www.ngos4healthpromotion.net> demonstrates our work with WHO, in particular it shows our current Platform of Action on Local Wisdom and Traditional Knowledge with its links to Health Promotion.

Like you we believe that Health promotion is key to maintaining good health and preventing disease across the globe, at all levels of society. We NGOs are a vital part of achieving this goal and will continue helping WHO.

Geneva, 23 May 2008