



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Mission permanente de la Suisse
auprès des Nations Unies à New York

Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United
Nations in New York

Seul le texte prononcé fait foi

Commission de la population et du développement
Quarante-troisième session

Point 4 de l'ordre du jour
Débat général consacré à l'expérience des pays dans le domaine de la
population: santé, morbidité, mortalité et développement

Déclaration de la délégation suisse

Check against delivery

Commission on Population and Development
Forty-third session

Item 4
General debate on national experience in population matters:
health, morbidity, mortality and development

Statement by the Swiss Delegation

New York, April 13th 2010

Mr. President,

In his excellent report on health, morbidity, mortality and development, the Secretary-General underlines the following three elements:

- All countries are facing the challenge of reducing inequalities in gaining access to health care;
- Strengthening health systems is a key strategy to addressing this challenge;
- The availability of the necessary health workforce is a crucial element of strengthening health systems.

Life expectancy for people living in Switzerland is one of the highest in the world and life expectancy at birth is increasing continuously. This increase is explained by a reduction of deaths caused by cardiovascular diseases, cancers and injuries, in particular car accidents. Recent health statistics however are indicating a clear increase in mortality caused by high blood pressure and neuropsychiatric diseases.

One of the most significant demographic trends is the ageing of the Swiss population due in particular to the steady increase in life expectancy of people aged 64 and older.

Due to both demographic and epidemiological reasons, the need for health personnel in Switzerland could, according to recent projections, increase by 25% over the next 10 years. The most predominant factor for success in responding to upcoming needs will be the ability of our national health system to invest in training health personnel and creating incentives to attract people to a career in this field.

Mr. President,

Empowering individuals and communities so that they make health choices and rational use of health care services is at the core of the Swiss contribution to the achievement of the health related MDGs. Switzerland promotes a comprehensive approach to planning, implementing and monitoring health sector reforms in partner countries and supports the better management of health systems, as well as decentralized and stronger involvement of civil society in ensuring reproductive health and rights.

Switzerland further attaches particular importance to gender-specific approaches to achieving improvements in public health. It contributes to setting up integrated services in developing countries in the area of reproductive health in existing health facilities. This also includes approaches to addressing the HIV/AIDS problem and other sexually transmitted infections. It supports efforts to stop gender based violence , including domestic violence and excision and pursues awareness-raising programmes targeting on the health risks caused by female genital mutilation.

Switzerland considers access to essential medicines to be an integral part of the overall approach to strengthening health-care services in developing countries and to facilitating access to health services.

We are a member of the foundation, Medicines for Malaria Venture which supports the development and registration in partner countries of new medicines for treating and preventing malaria. As a result of this co-operation, it has been possible to

introduce Coartem® Dispersible, the first artemisinin-based combination treatment (ACT) specifically for children suffering from malaria

Furthermore, Switzerland was intensively involved in the process that finally led to the adoption of the WHO global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property (GSPA). We are determined to ensure that this plan of action is implemented at both the national and international levels.

Thank you, Mr. President.