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World Health Assembly Reaffirms Support of Fluoridation

The following resolution was adopted on May 24, 1978 by the World Health Assembly:

Fluorides and Prevention of Dental Caries

The Thirty-first World Health Assembly,

Aware of the growing prevalence of dental caries throughout the world, and of its health and socioeconomic consequences;

Bearing in mind that dental caries is affected by a number of factors such as the consumption of refined carbohydrates, the action of various bacteria, the presence of dental plaque and the various actions of fluorides;

Noting resolutions WHA22.30, EB53.R30 and WHA28.64 underlining the importance of this problem;

Recognizing that safe, inexpensive and effective methods of prevention of dental caries exist, especially by the optimal adjustment of the fluoride content of public water supplies for which there is widespread experience, but also by other systemic and topical uses of fluorides, as well as other preventive agents or procedures;

1. URGES Member States to consider, within national plans for the prevention and control of oral disease, the fluoridation of public water supplies, where and when appropriate;
2. BELIEVES that, where fluoridation of public drinking-water supplies is not feasible for technical or other reasons, alternative methods of achieving an optimum daily intake or application of fluoride should be considered;
3. REQUESTS the Director-General:
  - (1) to continue to provide technical advice and assistance to Member States in the prevention and control of dental caries by adjustment of the fluoride content of public water supplies to the optimal level and by all other available means, where and when appropriate, and to foster cooperation with and between such States in this important area of public health;
  - (2) to report in due course on progress in this matter.

Dental Disease Prevention Activity  
Bureau of State Services