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Food and Nutrition Action Plan

However the food and nutrition is important element of WHO, it is difficult to get people interested in. 51 member states and eastern countries delegations are meeting every September to discuss main political issues concerning food and nutrition. Last conference was held in Copenhagen last year and established a programme of technical requirements for interested countries. On next meeting the delegations will present how the countries are getting through the programme.

It is necessary to develop food and nutrition policies which protect and promote health and reduce the burden of food-related disease. It is not possible to develop these policies in isolation. We have to stress the partnership and cooperation between nutrition and food sector. By using skills, technologies, experience of both nutrition and food experts, the framework should consist of following strategies:

- 1. a food safety strategy** (potential impact of unsafe food on human health is of great concern, new food safety systems are being developed);
- 2. a nutrition strategy** (especially in low-income groups and during critical periods throughout life, e.g. infancy, childhood, pregnancy or older age);
- 3. a sustainable food supply – food security** (to ensure enough food of good quality).

An action plan is proposed for the period 2000-2005, with approaches and activities to support Member States who wish to develop, implement and evaluate their food and nutrition policies. In Scandinavian countries there is a good legislative at the moment. The food and nutrition programme has been set up and local people are bringing new elements to the policy, which is still being discussed there.

As there is nobody in the Commission to be concerned in food and nutrition and vice versa the WHO has no influence in making this issue visible to public, these two organisations meet and discuss how to support each other. WHO collaborates between different sectors, such as Public Health, Environmental Services and Agriculture. Public health policy works on all levels (national, regional and local). Relating the industry, the health became the major issue, e.g. in USA more soft drinks or low fat products are being produced nowadays.

The main target of the plan is to consider what is happening at Ministry of health, schools, advertising food, etc. As the Ministry of health is responsible for advertising the consistent relevant goods etiquette descriptions, the minister in person shouldn't make such important decision himself.

It is proposed to set up a food and nutrition task force, to facilitate coordination between the European Union, the Council of Europe, United Nations agencies (UNICEF and FAO) and environmental and other international, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organization. The Regional Office is ready to ensure the secretariat of the task force.