Health preparedness and response systems, including systems to further national efforts and international cooperation on preparedness, contingency planning and response and containment of avian and pandemic influenza, and takes note with interest of 

4. Also calls upon Member States and the international community to raise awareness of good public health practices, including through education and the mass media;

5. Emphasizes the importance of active international cooperation in the control of infectious diseases, based on the principles of mutual respect and equality, with a view to strengthening capacity-building in public health, especially in developing countries, including through the exchange of information and the sharing of expertise, as well as research and training Programme focusing on surveillance, prevention, control, response, and care and treatment in respect of infectious diseases, and vaccines against them;

6. Calls for the improvement of the global public health preparedness and response systems, including systems of prevention and monitoring of infectious diseases, to better cope with major diseases, in particular a human influenza pandemic arising from avian influenza;

7. Recognizes World Health Assembly resolution 58.5 of 23 May 2005 on strengthening pandemic-influenza preparedness and response, and in this regard calls upon Member States to develop, implement and strengthen their national response plans, welcomes the ongoing collaboration across multiple forums to address issues to further national efforts and international cooperation on preparedness, contingency planning and response and containment of avian and pandemic influenza, and takes note with interest of the initiative of the International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza and its core principles;

8. Calls upon Member States to take all appropriate measures for furthering the purpose and eventual implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005), adopted by the World Health Assembly in its resolution 58.3 of 23 May 2005, pending their entry into force, including development of the necessary public health capacities and of legal and administrative provisions, and encourages them to implement the Regulations as early as possible and to support the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network of the World Health Organization;

9. Encourages Member States to participate actively in the verification and validation of surveillance data and information concerning public health emergencies of international concern and, in close collaboration with the World Health Organization, to exchange information and experience in a timely and open manner on epidemics and the prevention and control of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases that pose a risk to global public health;

10. Urges Member States and the international community to promote long-term funding, including public-private partnerships, where appropriate, for academic and industrial research as well as for the development of new vaccines and microbicides, diagnostic kits, drugs and treatments to address major pandemics, tropical diseases and other diseases, such as avian influenza and the severe acute respiratory syndrome, and to take forward work on market incentives, where appropriate, through such mechanisms as advance purchase commitments;

11. Stresses the importance of enhancing international cooperation in the area of public health in the aftermath of natural disasters to support national efforts to cope in all phases of the response, and urges Member States and the international community to strengthen their cooperation programmes, preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery in this regard;

12. Invites the regional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as appropriate, to cooperate closely with Member States, the private sector and civil society, when requested, in their capacity-building in public health, as well as in regional cooperation to diminish and eliminate the deleterious impact of major infectious diseases;

13. Encourages Member States, as well as United Nations agencies, bodies, funds and programmes, in accordance with their respective mandates, to continue to address public health concerns in their development activities and programmes, and to actively support capacity-building in global public health and health-care institutions, such as through the provision of technical and other relevant assistance to the developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Avian influenza

The World Health Assembly (Geneva, 16-25 May), in its resolution 58.5 on strengthening pandemic-influenza preparedness and response, stressed the need for all countries, especially those affected by highly pathogenic avian influenza, to collaborate with WHO and the international community to lessen the risk of a pandemic among humans that might be caused by the H5N1 influenza virus. The WHO Director-General was asked to develop plans and capacity for responding to a pandemic by providing capacity-building and technology transfer related to H5N1 influenza vaccines and diagnostics to developing countries.

The High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), in a briefing by WHO at its tenth session (Frascati, Italy, 6-8 October) [CEB/2005/7] on the latest developments regarding avian influenza, learned that, while several cases of transfer from birds to humans had been detected, there were no known cases in which the influenza had been transmitted from human to human. However, concern existed that the virus might mutate to acquire that capacity, which was an alarming possibility given the lack of vaccine and the limited quantities of medicine