progress in universal health coverage, health system strengthening, and aid delivery and effectiveness.


**Ministerial declaration.** On 9 July, the Council adopted the ministerial declaration of its 2009 high-level segment, entitled “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health” [A/64/3/Rev.1]. It reaffirmed those commitments; recognized the link between health and poverty; stressed the need for a combination of good public-health policies and for international cooperation to meet emerging threats and epidemics, as well as the need to strengthen health information systems; stressed the need to scale up efforts towards meeting the HIV/AIDS-related goals; reaffirmed the importance of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; expressed concern at the continued increase in road traffic fatalities and injuries worldwide; noted with concern the lack of health workers and their imbalanced distribution throughout the world; and reaffirmed the values and principles of primary health care.

**Global health and foreign policy**

**WHO report.** Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/33 [YUN 2008, p. 1339], the Secretary-General in September transmitted to the General Assembly a report [A/64/365] on global health and foreign policy, prepared in collaboration with the WHO Director-General and after consultations with Member States. The report examined the links between health, poverty alleviation and development, as well as the role of health in relation to foreign policy, including controlling emerging infectious diseases such as the recent influenza A(H1N1) pandemic.

Recommendations for Member States included identifying priority global health issues that required foreign policy action; strengthening the political and institutional foundations for foreign policy action on global health; increasing the quantity and quality of health information; heightening the involvement of diplomatic forums in improving foreign policy efforts on global health; and training more diplomats and health officials in global health diplomacy.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 10 December [meeting 62], the General Assembly adopted **resolution 64/108** [draft: A/64/L.16 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 123].

**Global health and foreign policy**

The General Assembly, Recalling its resolution 63/33 of 26 November 2008, entitled “Global health and foreign policy”,

Recalling also the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, especially those related to global health,

Recalling further that achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals is essential to socio-economic development, concerned by the relatively slow progress in achieving them, and mindful that special consideration should be given to the situation in sub-Saharan Africa,

Noting the adoption by the World Health Assembly on 24 May 2008 of its resolution 61.18, by which it initiated its annual monitoring of the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling its resolutions 58/3 of 27 October 2003, 59/27 of 23 November 2004 and 60/35 of 30 November 2005, all entitled “Enhancing capacity-building in global public health”, the resolutions of the World Health Assembly, in particular resolution 60.28 of 23 May 2007 and resolution 62.10 of 22 May 2009, both entitled “Pandemic influenza preparedness: sharing of influenza viruses and access to vaccines and other benefits”, and resolution 62.16 of 22 May 2009, entitled “Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property”,

Noting the contribution of the High-level Forum on Advancing Global Health in the Face of Crisis, which took place at United Nations Headquarters on 15 June 2009 and engaged multisectoral high representatives from around the world in the global health debate on protecting vulnerable populations, building resilient health systems and enhanc ing coherence towards multi-stakeholder strategic partnerships,

Welcoming the outcome of the annual ministerial review held by the Economic and Social Council in 2009, on the theme “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health”,

Recognizing the leading role of the World Health Organization as the primary specialized agency for health, including its roles and functions with regard to health policy in accordance with its mandate,

Noting the role and contribution of the Foreign Policy and Global Health Initiative in promoting synergy between foreign policy and global health, as well as the contribution of the Oslo Ministerial Declaration entitled “Global health: a pressing foreign policy issue of our time” to placing health as a foreign policy issue on the international agenda,

Noting also the outcome of the Thirty-fourth Summit of the Group of Eight, held in Tōyako, Hokkaidō, Japan, from 7 to 9 July 2008, which highlighted the principles for action on global health to achieve all the health-related Millennium Development Goals,

Emphasizing that the United Nations system has an important responsibility to assist Governments in the follow-up to and full implementation of agreements and commitments reached at the major United Nations conferences and summits, especially those focusing on health-related areas,

Underscoring the fact that global health is also a long-term objective which is local, national, regional and international in scope and requires sustained attention,